# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

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## TODAY'S NEWS

#### ENGLAND/ITALY

#### ince leads the team against his Italian friends

A nation waits, or at least the male half of the nation! As English fans prepare for tonight's decisive World Cup qualifying match against Italy in Rome, the burden of captaining the team went to Paul Ince, something of an irony: he only returned to England this summer after a spell with the Italian club Internazionale of

Full World Cup preview, including Scotland-Latvia, in Time Off, pages 24-6

#### British science for sale

In a Nineties version of the brain drain, British scientists are having to sell their expertise abroad in an effort to keep their research departments properly funded. The scientists say it is necessary because the new Government - which many of them voted for have not provided any new money for research. The real problem, though, lies in the unwillingness of British companies to back home grown science and technology. Page 3

#### Hague begins fightback

The Labour Government lacks the core values of Toryism and "don't believe in anything except their own political success," William Hague told the Conservative conference at Blackpool. The new leader's speech mingled apologies with expressions of pride about the Tory heritage and was enthusiastically applauded by

#### 'Straights' face ban

Discrimination is alive and kicking in Clubland - but now it is directed against heterosexuals. Bar-owners in parts of Manchester are employing drag queens and gay doormen to turn away straight night-clubbers. The clubs claim they are simply trying to preserve their authentic gay atmosphere. But is this positive discrimination or the rise of 'heterophobia'? Page 9

#### The Balmoral republic

A "Boer Republic" is being established this weekend just 50 miles east of Pretoria, its founders - 200 Afrikaner families - say it is their right to go it alone and they have chosen a former British concentration camp, where thousands died at the beginning of the century, as the site. Its name is Balmoral. The blacks they evicted are bitter. Mary Braid reports on page

#### Rory's African diary

Foor foreign aid projects in Africa are threatening the survival of animals and people, the comedian Rory Bremner discovered during his latest trip to Kenya and Tanzania. But he came upon many extraordinary things, from baboons and snakes... to Martin Clunes. His diary can be found on page 19

## SEEN AND HEARD

British scientist wins Nobel Peace prize! Er - make that ig Nobel prize. Harold Hillman, of the University of Surrey has been awarded the IgNobel Peace Prize, awarded for his research report "The Possible Pain Experienced During Execution by Different Methods." published in the journal Perception 1993. The Ig Nobel awards are presented annually in front of a chaotic and loudly appreciative paper airplane-throwing audience for achievements which "cannot, or should not, be reproduced." A rather hurz Professor Hillman protested that he was trying to provide a scientific basis to protest against the electric chair.

WEATHER Time Off, page 2 TELEVISION The Eye CROSSWORD Time Off, page 12

Web address: http://www. independent.co.uk

## Nobel prize for landmine heroes and heroines



Noble cause, Nobel Prize Jody Williams, co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) with a group of supporters in Oslo, during the conference which finalised the global treaty Photograph: Enc Johansen/Reuters

The Nobel Committee yesterday awarded the Peace Prize to campaigners for a bari on landmines. The award is a tribute to the success of the campaign so far - where Diana, Princess of ... Wales, played a key role. Steve Crawshow says it shows how a . popular cause can triumph over

governments, arms manufacturers and the military.

Yesterday's award is e triumph for those who believe in winning unwinnable victories. In the words of the Nobel committee's citation, it honours "a process which in the space of a few years changed a ban on antipersonnel mines from a vision to a feasi-ble reality". Those who just a few years ago were portrayed by leading politicians as naive dreamers can celebrate.

At her home in Vermont, Jody Williams. co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, was "a little stunned" by the news. Ms Williams is joint recipient together with the Campaign, of the £600,000 prize. In London, the Mines Advisory Group, one of six co-founders of the campaign in 1992, was "very, very hoooured".

An important figurehead for the campaign was Diana, Princess of Wales, whose family said that they were delighted. Her visit to Angola on behalf of the British Red Cross thrust the issue into the public eye as never before. Photographs of Diana's famous walk through an Angolan minefield dominated front pages around the world in January - and became even more famous, after her death. As the Red Cross noted yesterday, her visit was "a turning point". There scribed her as a "loose cannon". Peter Vig-

were even suggestions that she should be awarded a posthumous peace prize (an impossibility under Nobel rules).

But the Nobel committee was keen yesterday to emphasise that this was not just a posthumous award for Diana: There were very many people involved."

The first initiative for the Campaign began just six years ago. In 1991, the New York-based Human Rights Watch published The Coward's War, calling for a worldwide ban on landmines. Two mooths later, Ms Williams - who had always been "the classic good kid, in her own phrase agreed to spearhead the campaign.

For Ms Williams, who celebrated her 47th birthday on Thursday, the news came as "a hell of a birthday present". She started her life in campaigning work 15 years ago, when she was handed a leaflet as she got out of the subway in Washington. She became involved in pressure groups critical of US policy in central America. Through that work, she met leaders of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation who were helping landmine victims obtain artificial limbs. That, in turn, led to the realisation that "just putting limbs on people was [ineffective] if you don't go to the heart of the problem". The coalition began humbly, with one office in Washington and one in Europe ("so we could call it the international campaign.)

In Britain, the Tory government was less than enthusiastic about a ban, saying that landmines were legitimate defensive weapons". Michael Portillo, the former defence secretary, ruefully acknowledged this week that the government had sometimes seemed "indifferent to moral arguments", and that was certainly true of landmines. When Diana visited Angola, innor defence minister Earl Howe degers, a member of the Commons defence select committee, declared: The parallel that comes to mind is Brigitte Bardot and cats."

But the politicians' contempt backfired, as the campaign gained momentum. It worked with many people at local level all over the world; and it had an issue that seized the popular imagination, as direct and easily soluble. It was also adept at us-

ing the media. The draft version of the landmine treaty, to be signed in Ottawa in December, was finally agreed by 90 countries of a three-week conference in Oslo last

The knock-on effects of yesterday's historic announcement are likely to be considerable. Within hours, President Boris Yeltsia declared that a previously reluctant Russia was ready to sign. For the moment, the United States remains in the odious company of China, North Korea, and Iraq in opposing the terms of the ban. Washington yesterday expressed its admiration for Ms Williams. But President Clinton was said to be "rock-solid confident" that the US should not sign up for the Ottawn treaty. Washington argues that a ban would force it to defuse minefields along the border between North and South Korea, thus weakening the safety of US troops.

Ms Williams said she would telephone President Clinton to press the case, and expressed the hope that those countries which have not yet agreed to sign the treaty would now do so. "This is what humanity is call-

ing for," she said. She remains tough on the US president - embarrassingly, for the would-be moral White House. "The US continues to try to maintain the fiction that it is a leader on the issue of eliminating land mines ... How can you be a leader if you are oot part of

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#### THE NEW INDEPENDENT

#### 'Independent' sales up

The Independent has had a remarkable month. Our ABC sales for September were 288,000, nearly 12 per cent up the previous month, the highest percentage rise of any national paper, broadsheet or tabloid. Our market share is the highest since July 1996 and, year on year, our September rise outshone rivals such as the Times and the Guardian. Liam Healy, chairman of Newspaper Publishing, said yesterday that the shareholders were very encouraged and were "totally committed" to the long-term development of The Independent and our Sunday sister, whose sales are up by B per cent.



ISM/Our new culture magazine TIME OFF/ Sport, travel & leisure YOUR MONEY/ Personal finance, property & cars THE EYE/Your full weekly television

## I.Q. of 145 and Can't Remember?

A FAMOUS international publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends

in both business and social advancement. It works like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

The details of this method are described in his fascinating booklet, "Adventures in Memory, sent free on

According to this publisher, many peopla do not realise how much they can influence others simply by remembering accurately everything they see, hear or read. Whether in business, at social functions, or even in casual conversation with new acquaintances, there are wavs in which you can dominate each situation simply by your ability to remember.

For example, you need never forget another appointment — ever! You can learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. Whole books and plays can be indelibly imprinted on your memory after a single reading. You could be more sucessful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you could be



Forget facts, figures? more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do. These are only a few of the ways in which you can benefit by possessing a

trained memory. To acquaint all readers of The Independent with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating booklet, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just fill in and return the coupon on Page 6 (you don't even need to stamp your envelope), or write to: Memory and Concentration Studies, (Dept. IDM57), FREEPOST

198, Manchester M60 3DL.

snouldn't he or she be British? Flavourings - such as vanilla, are added to enhance the taste. --- Charles Arthur these bright sparks face coor-

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct n Direct remonal relations service cas is regardled by the resourch investment Adultation for your security, all calls will be recorded and randomly monitored.\*Male non-smoker, age 35 next birthday, 10 year period of cover, rose for

## 2/BRIEFING

## **COLUMN** ONE

## No sugar for Tories in spin doctors' medicine

Forget the victories of Greg Rusedski or the award of the Nobel prize for Literalure to iconoclast Dario Fo, the biggest winners this week have been the Labour party's spin doctors.

In the seven days earmarked for the hirth of a new Tory party and the coronation of its leader, William Hague, the papers instead have been pre-occupied with a plethora of Labour wheezes and stunts.

Take Monday, Just another 24 hours for Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, who managed to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin, take a trip on the Moscow underground and squeeze in a guest appearance on Russia's top soap House 7, Entrance 4. All guaranteed to bearhug the headlines while the Tories were making their way up to Blackpool.

Nut content with meeting the world's second most powerful man, Mr Blair was then visited 24 hours later by the world's richest man. Bill Gates was there to "pledge his support", but not his cash, to the Government's obsession with wiring up the nation's schools to the internet. Then those ubiquitous "senior Labour sources" popped up to reveal that the party was assembling a secret dossier on Tories who had been, allegedly, chanting sexual abuse at the new intake of women MPs. No proof was offered, and none was needed as the media happily swallowed the spin doctor's medicine.

Did anything else happen of note? Oh yes, William Hague's far reaching reforms of the Tory party were approved by its membership. But the Conservatives' constitutional earthquake was hardly the stuff that newsdesks dream of and, besides, Mr Hague only got 36 per cent of the vote whereas the Prime Minister, according to those Labour sources again, had a 93 per cent approval rating.

Wednesday. Labour lands another punch and the Conservatives are husy battering themselves to death. Lord Tebhit unhelpfully and hysterically warned that a mix of cultures could turn Britain into "another Yngoslavia" only to be slapped down by the leadership hours later. Labour meanwhile decide it's time to stop teachers helping pupils to cheat, allegedly, in national curriculum tests and that the world needs to know that Greg Dyke - an FOB (Friend of Blair's) and creator of Roland Rat - will produce a new charter for the NHS. Neither had a pressing need for announcements now as both are stories for next summer, but they stole the thunder from the Tories.

And if you have got it, flaunt it. For the Labour press team the fun is not in retailing the news, but in manufacturing it. This was amply demonstrated by Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's mouthpiece, on a fly-in-thecorridors-of-power piece of television shown earlier this week which showed the spin doctor predicting the London Evening Standard's front-page splash and then minutes later hrandishing it like a tropby won in the war of words.

And it is not just the hig Cabinet players who are courting the media lenses. Anne Taylor, leader of the House, was touring coffee houses in Holland - where marijuana can be freely purchased and smoked - on a fact-finding mission. Of course, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would never contemplate such a progressive measure hut it helps to witness whal ministers are missing and gets you onto the news.

William Hague on the other hand appears to be re-reading a speech made earlier by another dashing, right-winger and possible Conservative prime minister Michael Portillo - albeit to the whole conference - just in case anyone missed it the first time round.

Professionally one can only applaud the creaseless art of Labour's spin doctors; but if this carries on it may soon be time to cut out the middle man of the media and simply print the party press release. - Randeeb Ramesh

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ros: Thomas Cook



Diving in: David Bellamy is drawing attention to the plight of reef environments

#### Bellamy swims with sharks to save coral seas

David Bellamy, the naturalist and broadcaster, dived reefs and the need for an International Year of the into shark-infested waters yesterday evening to warn of the dangers facing the species due to the destruction of coral reefs.

The environmentalist swam with brown and tiger sharks in a tank at the London Aquarium to highlight a global survey which records widespread damage across the world to the living eco-systems.

Over 200 teams of divers in more than 40 countries took part in the survey to obtain the first-ever snapshol of the state of the world's reefs. studying environmentally fragile areas including Malaysia. the Red Sea and the Caribbean.

The findings highlight an alarming range of threats, including anchor damage, overfishing of commercial species, pollution and damaging dyn-

It is feared that 10 per cent of the world's reefs have already been degraded beyond recovery and that another 30 per cent are rapidly heading that way. Only 1 per cent have any official protection. "If you need proof of the plunder of our coral important habitats on earth."

Reef, ask yourselves where all the sharks have gone," Professor Bellamy said.

"More and more shark species are appearing in the red data book of endangered species, a sure sign that the natural balance of reefs is in danger.

"Once these large predators have gone to fuel the demand for shark-fin soup and shark steaks, populations of other fish and invertebrates explode,

speeding the destruction of coral reefs. "Of the 109 countries with reefs, over 85 per cent have suffered some kind of damage from our careless actions and in some cases the environmental

and economic consequences have been disastrous. "This destruction simply has to stop, otherwise within 40 years over half our planet's coral reefs will

have vanished." Alastair Harborne, UK Reef Check Co-ordinator said: "Recf Check clearly shows that if nothing is done now to save these rainforests of the seas, we risk losing some of the most beautiful, diverse and

#### Haughey's fib comes home to roost

Charles Haughey, the former Taoiseach, faces a humiliating sale of family silver in order to pay a crippling hill for legal costs later this month arising from his admission that he misled a judicial tribunal.

Assets said to be on offer to private hidders include Inishvickillaune, his private Atlantic island with its own nature reserve, and Abbeville, his Georgian statehome at Kinsealy, outside Dublin, with its large wooded estate, lake, racehorses and deer.

An executive in Mr Haughey's former accountancy firm is exploring how sales could realise funds to meet the legal costs. Discrect soundings are reportedly already being made among potential foreign huyers for the rocky island in the Blaskets off County Kerry.

In the carly Eighties Mr Haughey, 72, huilt a substantial stone holiday home there where guests included his friend François Mitterrand, the French president.

Mr Haughey recently made redundant half the staff at the 280acre Kinsealy estate, some with 27 years service. Such prime development land would command well over £10m, but may not be sold in its entirety. Parts of the land belong to Mr Haughey's



Mr Haughey's financial problems go beyond the expected sixfigure bill from own tribunal legal team. When the McCracken inquiry into payments to politicians holds its final session later this month to fix costs, senior sources say the retired politician will face a huge additional demand incurred by his own failure to tell the truth. That, in turn, forced tribunal officials to mount expensive international investigations to trace bank transactions arranged to conceal the destination of the

Dunne gifts. In a moment of high drama, Mr Haughey (above), four-time frish prime minister, accepted in July he nances" he told the Tribunal. received £1.3m from supermarket

chief Ben Dunne, a confessional U-turn followed by an admission that he had misled the tribunal and his legal team.

Earlier he flatly denied receiving the funds. Mr Haughey also faces rigorous tax inquiries from the Revenue Commissioners, themselves under criticism for failures to verify how Mr Haughey funded a lifestyle costing, the tribunal heard, more than three times his salaried income.

Mr Haughey himself was dismissive of such detail. "I just want to say that I did not have a very lavish lifestyle, my work was my lifestyle. I never had to concern myself about my personal li-

#### MEDICINE

#### **NHS** defuses Millennium Bomb

Measures to tackle the so-called Millennium Bomh which is expected to play: havoc with computers on the cusp of the year 2000 were announced yesterday by the NHS Executive.

By the end of 1998 the NHS must be fully prepared, Chief Executive of the NHS, Alan Langlands, said. A letter from Mr Langlands to NHS man agers lays out a systematic approach to tackling the issue, and by 31 December 1998, chief executives will ensure that all critical systems are ready and in ly tested to cope. Where systems or equipment cannot be repaired or replaced in time, they should ensure that comprehensive action plans are in place.

The NHS Executive will provide a one-stop help desk service to answer queries and give practical assistance to assist the NHS. Mr Langlands said-Preparing for the year 2000 is now the highest non-clinical priority in the NHS. As Health Service managers our duty is to patients, and our competence is demonstrated by ensuring that we continue to provide high quality services. The Year 2000 is just such a challenge. "Steps have already been taken to raise awareness of this problem, but now is the time for firm and visible action. This issue will be given priority by Chief Executives and senior clinicians in every part of the NHS."

#### LIFESTYLE

#### Women complain of sex hangovers

Almost 40 per cent of young women have had sex they later regretted because they were drunk, it was revealed yesterday.

The survey of 200 16-20 year-old girls also found that 55 per cent had started drinking by the time they were 14. Almost half of those questioned said spirits were their favourite tipple.

Lee Kynaston, editor of teenage magazine 19, which carried out the study. said: "While it's clear from the survey findings that sex and alcohol don't mix. the most dangerous aspect of this is the implications this has for safe sex.

"Under the influence of drink, young women are likely to forgo the use of condoms and this can lead to unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and the danger of being infected with the Aids virus. Our message is to think before you drink and make sure the sex you do have is the kind you don't want to forget."

#### NATURE

#### Crime is in the air for wild birds

Crime against wild birds is still rife, despite interest in the environment at "an all-time high," a leading conservationist body warned yesterday.

Shooting, poisoning and egg-collection increased last year, although the total number of all offences reported was the lowest since 1990; according in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Apart from birds of prey, at least 70 birds were diegally shot, including cormorant, grey heron, mute and Berwick's swans, Kingfisher and even blackbird. Nests of non-birds-of-prey robbed included nationally rare birds such as black-throated diver, roseate tern and chough. Fifty-one prosecutions came to court in 1996, 42 successfully, with fines totalling £26,295 and costs £16,330.

Graham Wynne, conservation director of the RSPB, said: "At a time when the interest in birds and their environment is at an all-time high, it is a dis-; grace that the law is so widely flouted." The figures were published as the UK Conference of Police Widdife Liaison Officers opened in Carmarthen.

#### Axe hangs over ancient village fair

Villagers are going to the polls to decide whether a historic 650-year-old fair should be scrapped - because it causes an annual crime-wave.

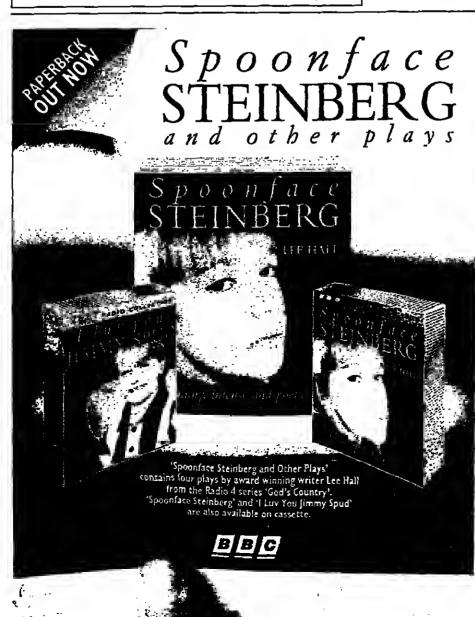
The 300 residents of the picturesque Priddy, in the Mendips, are fed up with crowds of up to 10,000 people descending on the village every summer. are holding a referendum to decide whether to abandon the fair which has been held on the village green since the Black Death in the 14th century. Villagers say the event, which for centuries centred on a sheep market, has spiralled out of control, attracting people from all over the country and leading to a spate of thefts, drunkenness and violence every time the fair is held. Village postmaster Jim Finlayson, who has lived at Priddy for 40 years, said: "Last year. somebody stole all the gas cylinders from the village hall and left us with a hill for £500." Villagers have until 31 October to complete their poll forms.

#### HEALTH

#### Secret illness of the unhappy worker

Most people who think they are suffering from stress at work are in fact depressed, a psychiatrist claims. Dr David Baldwin, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal South Hampshire Hospital, Southampton, said: "Sometimes people are not well matched to their jobs or have been promoted above a level they feel happy with ... or they are frustrated or bored." The symptoms of stress semble those of depression, and, if left untreated, can lead to a worsening of the problem. The key is to seek help early, he said.

● "Coping with stress at work", an audio programme of DIY strategies produced by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, is available from Tulking Life, PO Box 1, Wiral, L47 7DD, £13.99.



#### Gossip lands Dempster in hot water



A wealthy aristocrat went to the High Court vesterday in a hid to have gossip columnist Nigel Dempster jailed for allegedly repeating a libellous claim that he failed to make proper financial provision for his ex-wife.

Baron Steven Bentinek is also seeking to sequester the assets of Associated Newspapers, the publishers of the Daily Mail. He brought contempt proceedings against them over an item which appeared in the newspaper in August which, he claimed, meanl he was extremely mean towards his wife Nora (above) at the end of their nine-year marriage. His counsel denied this, saving the haron had made substantial provision for his former wife.

Andrew Caldeoni QC, for the newspaper, argued that no breach of its undertaking had occurred. The judge said he would give his ruling on Monday.

#### 7.30 FOR 8

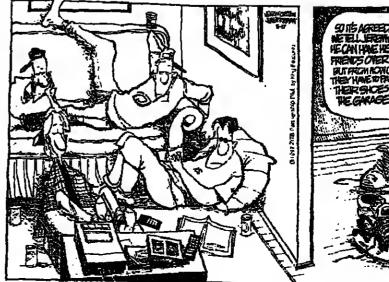
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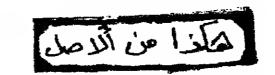




by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







## Underfunded scientists sell expertise \*abroad

British scientists are preparing to sell their world-beating expertise abroad, discouraged by the new Government's apparent reluctance to fund research.

The Government says the money isn't there. But, says Charles Arthur, Science Editor, the true fault lies elsewhere.

David Payne boarded a plane back from the US yesterday feeling pleased. He may have secured the funding for the University of Southamptoo's Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC) to cootinue its 30 years of ground-breaking research into optical systems, now one of the most important modern technologies



birds

TOD) M.

Sir Harold Kroto: refused project funding

Professor Payne's solutioo is simple: sell the expertise of the 120 staff at the ORC to the University of Connecticut, lock, stock and barrel. Why would be do that? Because from 1999, half of the ORC's funding, a published and available world-£2m grant from the UK's Engioeering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) is being cut. Only short-term projects - a couple of years - will be considered.

As an innovator who has made many cootributions to the development of fibre-optics. which can carry thousands of channels on glass fibres, Professor Payne's response might seem like pique. But he is making a scientific choice - between a country which seems to value his work, and Britain.

This is oot an isolated case. All over Britain, scientists who voted in May for Labour (and many did) in the hope that it would mean a vote for better and more long-term funding, have found that the ecocomic strictures adopted by the party leave no room for maneouvre. Some are taking direct actioo. like Professor Payne.

The EPSRC insists that the cuts have been planned for some time, and points oot that the ORC is already receiving strong industry support, working with 70 companies.

Professor Payne is less happy, even about the radical solution he is considering. "The consequence would be that the intellectual property of any-

thing that we invent and patent would go overseas," he said yesterday. "I doo't think the EP-

SRC has thought this through."
Other scientists already know the feeling. Last year Sir Harold Kroto, of the Unversity of Sussex, won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry - hours after he was turned down by the EPSRC for funding of a threeyear project into fullerenes, the molecules which woo him

like to see the Government approach the 21st century understanding that science is the dominant culture of this century, and will be even more dominant in the oext. You need

that science and technology have freed us from the caves should try a simple experiment. Go home and turn the electricity off for a day. See what it's like."

At the core of this debate is the question: how much should the Government fund scientific research? Two definitions are usually offered for laboratory work: "basic" (or "bluesky") and "applied". Basic research asks questions such as what would happen if you got all the atoms in a solid to vibrate in step?" and produces the laser. Applied research takes that and puts it in compact disc players, missile-aiming systems, accurate range-finders and new communications devices. Generally, people argue that governmeot should fund basic. research, and industry pay for applied research.

But the nature of science means that basic research is can apply concepts developed by British scientists with British taxpayers' money. In fact, a Japanese government study found that more than half of the concepts and discoveries that its companies were exploiting had originated in the UK...

So should the Government abandon basic research funding? Today John Battle, the inminister with responsibility for science and technology, is meeting the pressure group Save British Science in Leeds. Denis Noble, SBS's secretary, said: "We are specifically going to follow up on a comment he made last week, that he is 'very worried whether there will be enough seedcorn for the future'. The first issue is how he's going to deliver on that." Mr Battle has made what scientists regard as encouraging noises aboot funding. But they prefer to judge on actions.

Sir Harold points out that we're doing really well at pro-

## \* The real trouble with funding

The trouble with science funding in Britain doesn't lie with scienusts, or the Government. Earlier this week Microsoft announced more funding for the brightest minds of Cambridge University, and the Canadian telecoms company Nortel announced the fruits of the work of Ian Vance - a Briton who has figured out how to send Internet communications over mains

electric cables. A Southampton scientist prepares to move his centre to Connecticut to keep it going. Cambridge-based Imutran, which is developing a way to produce pig organs to transplant into humans, has to seek venture capital funding from the US. Britain is full of scientists who are keen to make discoveries that will shake the world, and make their fortunes.But these bright sparks face enor-

mous problems setting light to British industry. After two recessions, British companies are distrustful of science (and, to some extent, technology), ruled by accountants, and firmly fixed on the short term. Industry complains that the

pressure for profits is too great to fund long-term work. But wool-gathering turned out nicely for the scientists at the Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics, who produced Dolly the cloned sheep earlier this year. . The Labour message is, surprisingly, correctt: industry should take up where a government corseted by untaxable voters cannot. Industry should start paying for scientific research, and smile Because Bill Gates has to have a successor as richest persoo in the world. Wity shouldn't he or she be British?

--- Charles Arthur

Yesterday he said, "I would

to understand it to survive. "Anybody who doesn't think

the lesson to be drawn from the Japanese study is not onite what it seems. "It suggests that .. ducing and funding basic research here," he said. "But it points the finger at industry. Why isn't industry taking up these ideas?"

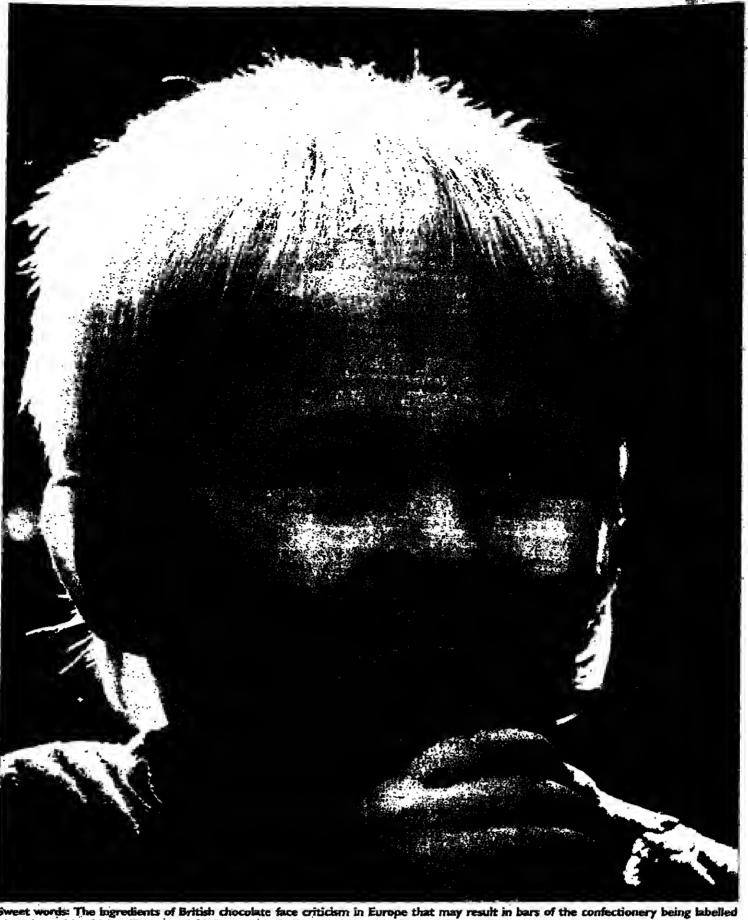
#### WHAT'S IN A BAR OF CHOCOLATE?

Fresh liquid full-cream milk

Cocoa mass - the basis of all chocolate products, consisting of rossed cocca beans that have been ground into liquid. Cocoa butter - the fat from cocoa beans. Vegetable fat - similar in nature to cocoa butter and coming from African shee, Indian sal and Malaysian palm.

the chocolate. E442 - ammonium phosphatides which act as a stabilizer. Favourings - such as vanilla, are added to enhance the taste.

Emulsifier - a liquid made from rape seed of that helps to liquify



Sweet words: The ingredients of British chocolate face criticism in Europe that may result in bars of the confectionery being labelled 'chocolate with a high milk content'. Unfortunately, in France, this means 'household chocolate'

INTHE INDEPENDENT ON MONDAY

**INTERVIEW** 

**DEBORAH ROSS** 

Where's a right winger to turn when even the Tories talk tolerance? To Piers Paul Read, champion of family values

**MEDIA** 



Oliver Stone makes a Natural Born Killer attack on the American media

STYLE Po-faced designer shops - what's the alternative?

SPORT -Gerry Francis in the Tottenham hot seat

## All because the lady loves vegetable fat...

Britain's chocolate is under threat from rival confectioners on the Continent who argue that our product is not pure enough to merit the name. As the British scored an important victory this week, Amanda Kelly tries to discover what makes a 'real' bar of chocolate.

The last thing on the minds of most chocoholics as they bite into their favourite brand is the exact percentage and make-up of the ingredients. But it seems unlikely they would be so keeo oo "vegelate"

At the heart of the debate revolving around a proposed "Chocolate Directive" lies the question of wheo a bar of checolate stops being a bar of chocolate and becomes some-

While Britain and six other European Union countries permit up to 5 per cent vegetable fat, the restof the EU requires chocolate to be made with cocoa butter. Purists argue that the use of vegetable fat means the product is not really chocolate and they say the lower content of cocoa in British chocolate makes it inferior. The makers of British chocolate say these arguments are "ridiculous".

Cadbury's spokesman Tony Brisberough said: "Simply pritting more cocoa into chocolate doesn't make it any more

chocolatey. It just makes it different. And the reason why we use vegetable fat is to give it a nice gloss and a nice snap when you break off your chunk of chocolate."

This week the European Parliament environment committee rejected calls from Euro MPs to make British confectioners change the name of their product. They also rejecteri demands that British chocolate be called "chocolate with vegetable fat". But, as they voted on European Commissioo proposals to streamline EU food laws in the interests of the single market, they recommended that bars such as Cadbury's Dairy Milk should be labelled "chocolate with a high milk content".

Pani Kirkwood, spokesman for Nestlé Rowntree said: "We are very pleased to be able to continue calling it chocolate because that is what it is ... British chocolate is every bit as good as on the Continent."

The matter will be taken up again in a full session of the parliament, on 22 October, when ministers will try to resolve their divisions.

John Newman, director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, said: "We are hoping that the European parliament will reject the proposal that we should label all milk chocolate chocolate with a high milk chocolate. One of the main problems with this that when the phrase is translated into French it means 'household chocolate'."

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## Third expert casts doubt on nanny case

For the second day running, medical experts have given evidence which contradicts the prosecution case against Louise Woodward, the British nanny accused of murdering her young American charge.

The massive hrain injuries from which baby Manthew Eappen died could have been caused up to two days before he was allegedly murdered by the namy Louise Woodward, a pathologist told her trial in the United States yesterday.

Dr Umberto De Girolmi was the third presecution medical witness to admit that the nine-month-old baby's hrain haemorrhage could have been suffered before the day he was admitted to Boston Children's Hospital in an irreversible coma.

The doctor also said there was too much brain damage to find evidence to support the prosecution's claim that the baby had been shaken violently before by died.

A consultant neuropathologist, Dr De Girolmi had looked for signs of old injury or disease when he microscopically examined the baby's brain, he told the Middlesex Superior Court in Cam-

bridge, Massachusetts,

He had found none – but it was impossible to be more precise about when the fatal injury happened other than that it was within a week of Matthew's death.

"The changes to the brain were with-

in a week, they are not older than a week," said the doctor. The bahy died five days after his ad-

mission to hospital on 4 February this year.

The defence claims his brain injury

could have happened carlier and gone undetected hefore it started re-hleeding either spontaneously or because of mild jarring.

Dr De Girolmi told defence lawyer Barry Scheck that the injury could date back to Fehruary 2 - two days before Miss Woodward, 19, called emergency services in panic to say Matthew was barely breathing.

The prosecution alleges that Woodward, of Elton, near Chester, shook him violently and slammed his head against a hard surface in a bitter, frustrated rage because of his crying and her unhappiness with her job with his parents Deb-



Louise Woodward: Injuries may have been caused two days before

orah and Sunil Eappen in Newton, near

Woodward denies first degree murder which carries a sentence of life with-

The pathologist who carried out the post-mortem examination on Matthew said yesterday he did not believe the baby had been violently shaken because of the lack of haemorrhage in the neck muscles and the fact there were no bruises on his neck and rihs to show he had been grahbed.

Mr Scheck asked Dr De Girolmi whether too much of the brain had been destroyed to find the shearing of the brain tissue which would indicate shaking.

The pathologist replied: "I agree with you."

Shortly before the start of yesterday's hearing Woodward was in tears in the courtroom.

She had to be comforted by her defence lawyers but quickly regained her composure before the start of the proceedings.

## England fans arrive in Rome amid tight security

A tight but low-key security ring greeted the first several hundred England football fans to arrive in Rome for today's decisive World Cup match against Italy. With Italian police on full alert, backed by British colleagues from the National Criminal Intelligence Service, the first waves of flights and trains passed off without incident vectors due.

Pans arriving at Ciampino airport had their bags meticulously searched, causing some delays when charter planes arrived close together and provoking some mutters of irritation. From there, there were specially laid-on taxis to take the fans to their hotels.

Smaller elusters of fans turned up at Termini, Rome's main railway station. Many of them had accommodation arranged nearby and spent the afternoon sitting quietly in the neighbourhood's rather dingy bars. No major problems were reported. The one concern focused on fans buying tickets for areas of the Olympic Stadium where Italian fans will be sitting.

— Andrew Gumbel

#### 'Canberra' will be scrapped

The much-loved cruise liner Canberra is to end her life in a scrapyard in Pakistan, it was announced yesterday. The 45,000-tonne vessel, which was used as a troop-carrying ship in the Falklands campaign, left Southampton last night for Pakistan P&O Cruises said

left Southampton last night for Pakistan, P&O Cruises said.

Launched in 1961, Canberra completed her final 20-night Mediterranean cruise voyage on 30 September ending a career which saw her sail about three million miles and carry one million passengers.

#### Son freed over mercy killing

A devoted son who helped his elderly mother commit suicide to end her life of pain walked free from court yesterday. Peter Pitman, 46, was initially charged with murder after the body

of his 75-year-old mother Janet Pitman was found in a field with a gunshot wound to the head. Pitman, a farmworker, denied murder and was given a nine-month

prison sentence suspended for two years after pleading guilty to aiding and abetting his mother's suicide in a mercy killing.

Bristol Crown Court heard how Mrs Pitman had endured 40 years of agony after being struck down with arthritis. She moved to live

Bristol Crown Court heard how Mrs Pitman had endured 40 years of agony after being struck down with arthritis. She moved to live with her son at Charlton Mackrell, Somerset, 15 years ago but continued to suffer from the crippling disease. The court was told Mrs Pitman was determined to kill herself because of her poor quality of life and had heen screaming with pain the night before her death.

#### Dickinson DNA tests extended

Police yesterday began taking genetic samples from 170 French villagers as part of the 15-month hunt for the killer of British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson.

She was raped and murdered in a shared dormitory in a youth hostel in the Brittany village of Pleine Fougeres while on a trip with Launceston community college. Cornwall.

French investigators began DNA-testing males aged between 15 and 35 on a voluntary basis in the village where Caroline was killed in July last year. John Dickinson, her father, who has fought since Caroline's death for a more thorough approach to police inquiries, welcomed the move. He suid: "This is something I have campaigned for very hard and I think it is a very important avenue to be gone down. If it does not lead to Caroline's killer being found, then we will try other avenues."

## Blair sets out his plans for Bill of Rights

Historic legislation giving British citizens a bill of rights will be put before the House of Commons by the end of the month.

Katherine Butler reports from Strasbourg.

In Strasbourg for a gathering of 40 European leaders, including the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Germany's Helmut Kohl, Mr Blair committed the Government to early incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. He promised a White Paper setting out the meehanics of this move in 10 days' time and publication of a Bill

shortly afterwards.

The move, importing a vast body of European human rights case law directly into British law, should give individuals easier access to arbitration.

pean judges will be entitled to rule on whether a person's fundamantal rights under the European Convention – the right to life, to privacy and to overturned, and outlawed birching in the Isle of Man. A ruling in a case hrought by two Scottish teachers in 1982 led to the ending of corporal punishment in British schools and in riously," he said.

a fair trial, for example – have been violated and citizens will no longer have to take their challenges directly to Strasbourg, where the Human Rights court sits.

"I want the British people to be able to secure their human rights, not only from the European Court but also at home from their own judges. They should not have to go through the lengthy and often expensive process of appealing direct to the Commission and Court here in Strasbourg." said Mr

Britain was one of the founders of the Council of Europe and signed the Human Rights Convention in 1950, but the failure to enshrine its provisions in domestic law has meant that British cases appear before the Strasbourg court more than any others and Britons have generated the court's most high-profile rul-ings. In the 1970s it forced the criminalisation of homosexuality in Northern Ireland to be . overturned, and outlawed birching in the Isle of Man. A ruling in a case brought by two Scottish teachers in 1982 led to the ending of corporal punish1995 the court condemned the British army for the "death on the rock" killings of three IRA suspects in Gibraltar.

Reforms to the European Court launched by leaders yesterday will speed the procedures and cut the waiting time for rulings, which can take up to three years. A single court will sit in permanent session from next year, assessing applications, and the present two-tier structure will be scrapped. British citizens will still be able to appeal to the Strasbourg

judges.

Mr Blair also gave Britain's backing yesterday to a declaration committing governments to move towards the abolition of the death penalty. Officials stressed that a decision on abolishing capital punishment, still technically on the statute books for treason, still lay in the hands of parliament.

Mr Blair joined 39 European leaders in signing a commitment to ban human cloning. Chancellor Kohl also committed Germany to a national ban. "Looking back to a dark page of our history where barbarity ruled during the Nazi period, Germans take this issue very seriously." he said.

#### Killer's transfer to Ulster jail to be reviewed.

The controversial decision to transfer convicted killer Jason Campbell from Scotland to the Maze prison in Northern Ireland is to be reviewed by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar.

whose father was convicted of planting a bomb in two Roman Catholic pubs in Glasgow, was jailed for life for the murder of 16-year-old Mark Scott as he made his way home from a football match in the city in 1995. Mark, who was wearing a Celtic top, had his throat slashed in an apparently random attack.

Campbell, a Protestant

In a radio interview, Mr evidence and the facts.

Dewar said he wanted to be satisfied that the proper criteria for Campbell's transfer had been met before it took place. He insisted that the final decision on the move rested with him, not with his home affairs minister, Henry McLeish, who has found himself at the centre of the growing row. Mr Dewar told BBC Radio Scotland: "This is a very tragic and very difficult and very complex case."

The move comes following a storm of political protest and criticism. Mr Dewarsaid he did not want to prejudge the case as it had to be decided on the

Michael Ancram, the former Northern Ireland Minister, criticised the Government's handling of the case and said it might put a question mark over Mr McLeish's future. "It's quite astounding that a transfer of this sort in a very sensitive area has taken place without the Secretary of State knowing the full facts."

The loyalist politician whose party requested the transfer on behalf of the UVF paramilitaries said today that he had made mistakes. Progressive Unionist Party leader David Ervine said: "He (Jason Campbell) is not a political prisoner."

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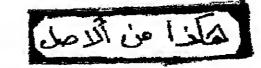
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(DA)

The British music industry is endangering itself by cosying up to ithe Government according to former rock star and agit-prop artist Bill Drummond. Paul McCann asks if there are really no more rebels any more.

It is difficult to imagine the Spe-cial AKA singing "Stand Down Tony" or Elvis Costello wantiog to "Tramp the dirt down" on this Prime Minister's grave as he did with Mrs Thatcher.

In fact it is so difficult to imagine a rock 'o' roll opposition to a Prime Minister who music and design, which it sees has Noel Gallagher round for drinks that one erstwhile rock star has called for a halt on the music industry's pally attitude fields of Glastonbury this year to Labour.

Bill Drummond, part of the art pranksters, the K Foundation, formerly known as the groups Justified Ancients of Mu Mu and the KLF, has attacked Alan McGee, head of Oasis's record company, Creation, for joining the Government's task force oo the arts.

"I'm getting very frightened," Drummond said yesterday, "It seems that the

Dirds

TODA M.

arts to its bosom, but it is the job of the arts to stand outside the establishment. As soon as you start becoming part of the PR of a government you are getting into a dangerous area."

Mr McGec maintained oo the BBC's Today programme that he was not a rebel which is why he is on the Government's Arts Task Force: "It's to ... make it easier for people in the industry," he said. "The

management of bands is currently very inexperienced, there is no training. With government assistance the music industry can be juicer." The Government has dedi-

cated itself to assisting the "creative" industries such as film, as areas of future economic growth. It even sent a minister, Mark Fisher, to the muddy to address the an audience waiting for The Prodigy. But Drummond is con-

cerned that rock music will be damaged by government intervention and that opposition to the Government will be limited: "At the moment there is no cultural opposition." Despite a proud history of

a musical oppositioo to the ruling establishment, going back to Bob Dylan's protest songs, to carry this out is not known.

establishment has pulled the the trend has petered out since the street-fighting days of high Thatcherism.

From the class war of The Jam's "Eton Rifles" to UB40 singing "I am a One io Ten", every band worth their salt in the Eighties lined up to oppose the government of the day. Even Bruce Springsteen sang Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land", anthem, of the International Trade Union Movement, in stadia full of Reagan-voting yuppies. In the Nineties, opposition rock has been championed by anarchocrusty bands like The Levellers, with their support for environmental causes such as the Newbury bypass protests.

For Drummond, who's oppositional antics have included taking a dead sheep to the Brit awards, hijacking the Turner Prize and burning £Im of his own money, believes the rock world's frateraisation with Labour in opposition should stop now it is in power.

He is taking a stand against Labour by setting up a campaign to "F\*\*k the Millennium". The K Foundation took out advertisements in the national press this week to ask people to phone in and say whether they want the K Poundation to "F\*\*k the Millennium". How he plans



Schmoozing: Liam Gallagher, of Oasis, and his wife Meg get together with Tony Blair over drinks at No 10 in July

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## The MP who didn't inhale

coffee shop it doesn't mean she inhaled. That was the message yesterday from Ann Taylor's office, after it emerged that the Leader of the Commons had popped in to one of Amsterdam's infamous establishments where Moroccan black is as readily available as café latte.

People seem to be taking two and two and making five, said a spokeswoman for Ms Taylor, after details of the visit emerged. "This should not be seen as an indication that the Government is going to legalise cannahis."

Indeed it shouldn't. The visit to Amsterdam, earlier this week, was part of a three-day fact-finding mission to Hol-

familiarise Ms Taylor with the drugs policies of other countries. As chair of the Cabinet sub-committee on drug misuse, she has travelled far and wide to eather information.

No details were forthcoming as to which coffee shop proprietor played host and officials refused to say what was discussed or - perhaps handled. "It was a private visit. The minister simply. wanted to familiarise herself making it available on prewith the issues," said the spokeswoman.

It was a surreal end to a week in which Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice had expressed support for

Just because she went into a land and France, intended to criminalisation of soft drugs. And it followed on the heels of expressions of determination by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, that he would never bow to pressure to let up on the fight against drugs.

However, Frank Dobson. the Secretary of State for Health told a television studio audience on Thursday night that he would consider making cannabis legal for sufferscription on medical grounds.

Next week ministers are expected to announce the name of the person chosen to be the new "drugs tsar" who will coordinate efforts across Whitehall to combat drug abuse.





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## Army rape charges dismissed

Six Army officers accused of gangraping a 24-year-old woman walked free from court after their trial was halted yesterday. A judge at Oxford Crown Court decided there was not enough consistent evidence to convict the men, and directed the jury to return verdicts of "not guilty".

The six - captains Philip Bates, 26, Darren Bartlett, 24, and Ian Barlow, 29, Lieutenant Matthew Tupling. 24, and officer cadets Nicholas Oettinger, 20. and Andrew Stout, 20 - had denied raping the woman at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, on 27 May last year.

The jury at Oxford Crown Court had heard that the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, claimed the men assaulted her in a bedroom at the college after a drunken day out at a nearby fête. The officers said she had consented to having sex

The following day the men sent the woman a hunch of flowers with the message "Sorry about the misunder-

standing. Please accept apologies not "attacks on her morals or on her from all involved."

During the trial a friend of the victim told the jury that she had twice spoken with her on the telephone in the week leading up to the alleged assault. The friend said she was pestered to join in a group sex session with the woman and a group of Army officers.

The court also heard that 10 days before the alleged attack, the woman had had sex with Oettinger and another man at the college while Bates lny beside them in a drunken stupor.

When the woman reported the alleged rape to police six months later. she failed to mention the earlier group sex session. She also failed to tell police that she had had sex with another of the men, Stout, just hours hefore the alleged rape.

Judge Julian Hall decided that inconsistencies in her evidence made it unsafe to allow a jury to reach verdicts. He said the defence's attacks on the woman at the centre of the case were

way of life, they are attacks on her credibility or reliability as a witness in this case". He was conscious that it was normally for the jury to decide the facts of the case, but he had acted as a filter in this case to ensure a fair trial. However, he added, "If six men think it's a good idea to have sex with one woman, they run the risk of being accused of rape. I think they have brought this prosecution on them-

He said the six realised they had gone too far after the girl was obviously upset - the episode was "almost bound to end in tears". The judge went on: "It was ill thought through by everybody and it does no one any credit." He ordered that the six men's

costs should be paid in full.

A spokeswoman for the Army said: "The Army authorities will now consider what action would be appropriate. Until that consideration is complete we are unable to comment."



Passing the baton: Shana Roberts, an American on the Sacred Run, a 'spiritual relay' around the world led by Native Americans and which this week reached Aberfeldy in Tayside. She is carrying a 'dream catcher', part of the tradition Photograph: Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert of the 19-year-old run which takes a message of peace from village to village

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#### **Vetting measures to** check corrupt police

Strict vetting measures to prevent corrupt and secondrate police officers joining the new National Crime Squad are to be introduced, the head of the force revealed yesterday.

general of the squad, which comes into power in April with a workforce of about 1,700, is concerned that because his new team will be dealing with top-level criminals and offences involving huge sums of money it could act as a honey pot to corrupt officers.

As the current co-ordinator of the regional crime squads, Mr Penrose said that he was aware of former officers offering bribes to serving detectives for nelp and information and of some forces giving exaggerated recommendations to get rid of incompetent staff. "There are some very ingenious officers and criminals," be

He said that to try to weed out any officers intent on wrong doing he would be using a number of measures, including double checking some references, having a tougher vetting procedure

for all recruits, and installing a confidential telephone system to enable officers to inform anonymously on suspected colleagues.

He said that he would be "ruthless" in throwing Roy Penrose, director- out any police officers who did not meet the highest of standards.

The problem of corruption was highlighted last year in the case of John Donald, a senior Metropolitan police drugs squad detective seconded to the south-east regional crime squad, who wasailed for 11 years for sciling information to criminals.

The National Crime Squad, which has a hudget of £95m and is made up of the old regional crime squads. will work alongside the National Criminal Intelligence Service in targeting the country's most senior gangsters.

Mr Penrose said the lack of officers from ethnic backgrounds made it hard to infiltrate some of the criminal gangs, such as Jamaican "yardies", Chinese Triads, Turkish heroin families based in London, and Russian money launderers.

— Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent

#### **Barratt Browning's love poem** reaches most hearts

Elizabeth Barratt Browning has been bailed as the writer of the finest love poem in the English language for her heartfelt sonnet which begins "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." "How Do I Love Thee", which the Victorian poet wrote for her husband and fellow poet Robert Browning, with whom she cloped at the age of 40, was "a clear winner" of the Nation's Favourite Love Poem voted by BBC1 viewers ahead of works by Shakespeare. Yeats. Robert Burns and others. Programme editor Daisy Goodwin said she was "delighted but not surprised". "When it comes to love, women are streets ahead, poetically at least!"

It is the second year that a woman has topped the annual BBC1 Bookworm poetry poll, which follows celebrations for National Poetry Day on Thursday. Last year's award for the favourite postwar poem was won by Jenny Joseph's "Warning".

#### Medway laps at priory walls

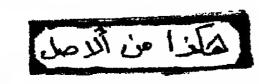
More than half a million pounds is needed to turn back the River Medway River in Kent and save the 13th-century Aylesford: Priory - one of county's oldest buildings, home to a community. of working Carmelite friars and once a hospice for pilgrims on their way to the shrine of St Thomas à Becket in Canterbury. Rising river and tide levels risk a unique part of Britain's heritage being swept away. The outside walls of the priory's Pilgrim's Hall form part of the flood defences. But they are bulging out wards and are in urgent need of repair. The Environment Agency has drawn up plans for a £573,000 scheme to strengthen the walks and raise embankments. It is hoped lottery money will be provided for other vital restoration work.

- Stephen Goodwin

#### £500,000 fines for digger deaths

Two plant hire companies were ordered to pay £500,000 in fines, and costs following a road crash in which the arm of a digger aboard a low loader swung out and killed five people in approaching cars in December 1995. Bazeley Plant Hire Ltd of St Columb, Cornwall, and Chepstow Plant Hire Ltd of Gwent were found guilty at Truro Crown Court of failing to ensure the vehicle was not a risk to safety. They employed the driver of the low loader, Mark Wade, 31, of Fraddon. Cornwall, who was found guilty of causing the deaths of five people by dangerous driving. Judge Graham Cottle adjourned sentence on Wade.

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Newmarket where, Ian Burrell

called to investigate armed

robbery, drugs smuggling and

racehorses.

murder.

ove peer

stalking the stables of some of

It is the latest drama to grip

reports, police have recently been

in styling, technical innovation and performance. And offers more features (as standard) than any comparable car. This full list will guished European competitors. The Cadillac Seville right-hand drive. Made in America, but

It's all happening at the London Motor Show, Hall 1. Should you not be able to join us on our

We would be delighted to supply any

though probably unrelated, incursions from the worlds of drugs and violence. Earlier this summer, Kamil Mahdi, 48, a new trainer on the Newmarket scene, was the victim of a violent armed robbery at Mr Mahdi, aloog with his fiancée and

Jarvis, who rushed to the scene to give help.

Their reactions were unsurprising given that

the Newmarket racing community has

drawn closer together in receot mooths in

the face of a succession of unwanted,

In July, Roger Harris, another New-

market-based trainer, and two other men,

millionaire trainer, shouting: "This is for threatened with a band gun by two smartyou, you bastard." ly-dressed men posing as raceborse own-Yesterday as Mr Cumani prepared his ers. The men escaped with jewellery and horses for a meeting at Ascot, detectives were seeking to establish whether anyooe

might have a grudge against him.

Photograph: Robert Hallam

were arrested after customs officials seized

cannabis resin worth £3.5m in a horsebox.

And the town has still not recovered from

the murder of trainer Alex Scott, 34, who

was shot in the back during an argument

with an employee at his stable yard.

Are you ready to meet the American Challenge?

Racing uncertainty: Newmarket's close-knit community has drawn close in the face of a succession of unrelated incursions from the world of drugs and violence

Not only was Mr Cumani the victim in country's outstanding flat racing jockey. The

As the siren from the first fire engine cut

through the Suffolk night air, Luca Cumani

was already in the stable yard leading his

horses away from the flames of the burn-

ing building. One of Britain's leading

trainers, he has been entrusted with the care

of horses owned by some of the world's

richest men; Sheikh Mobammed, the Aga

It was nearly 2.30am when he received

a telephooe call from a oeighbour, telling

him that the stable buildings at his Krem-

lin Stud Yard were ablaze, But Mr Cumani

might have been forgiven for sleeping with.

one eye open. Only 17 hours earlier another

fire had mysteriously brokeo out at his

neighbouring stables at Bedford House,

Khan, Michael Tabor.

causing severe damage.

both instances, but also each blaze began

io similar circumstances, in the second-

Police were last night questioning a 28-

ar-old man in connection with the fires.

Meanwhile fire officers warned the

Divisional fire officer Michael Jacksoo

Newmarket racing community to step up

said: "They should make sure they know

who is coming in and out of their yards and

make sure they establish a routine. It is very

difficult to protect properties like stables

because of the way they are laid out, but

ian-born Mr Cumani, 48, is known for be-

ing a meotor to Frankie Dettori, the

Much-loved in the racing fratermity, Ital-

owners must be oo their guard."

security amid fears of further attacks.

storey lofts of the stables.

October 15th. 1997; a famous day in European Luxury Motoring History. That is the day, at the London Motor Show, Hall 1.

Cadillac will unveil the all-new Seville. And very shortly America's top selling luxury car will debut in England in right-hand drive version. R's all part of the American Challenge. designed for the United Kingdom. Are you ready to meet the American Challenge?

impress you - as it will astound our most distin-

further information on the all-new Cadillac Seville.

under control. Thank God no staff or borses were injured in either blaze." He praised other leading trainers, Sean Woods, William Haggas and William

trainer has been based in Newmarket for

more than 20 years and the pinnacle of his

career so far was his Derby win with

horses were oo the gallops and the re-

maining four horses were quickly led to

housing a dozen racehorses, which narrowly

escaped as flames ripped through the roof

The first fire was started when the race-

But yesterday's attack was oo a stable

After yesterday's fire, Mr Cumani said:

We led the horses into the other yards,

by which time the firemen had got the fire

Kahyasi in 1988.

f the building.

cash worth £2,000.

his yard.

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http://www.cadillaceurope.com

The murder trial at Norwich Crown Court in 1995, at which stud groom William "Clem" O'Brien, 58, was jailed for life, gave an insight into the simmering tensions which sometimes exist behind the serene public image of the sport of kings. The jury heard that he opened fire on the business associate, were tied up and

#### Scots lose out in football monopoly

The toy maker Waddingtons courted controversy on the eve of the weekend's decisive World Cup qualifying matches by consigning Scotland to the cheapest property in a footballing remake of Mo-

Scotland are almost certain to make the finals if they beat Latvia at Parkhead to-

But a new World Cup France 98 Edition of the London property game puts the Scots on the lowest-ranking square on the board, on a par with Switzerland and below Romania.

While Brazil are top dogs on swanky Mayfair and England enjoy expensive Regent Street, Scotland languish oo Old Kent Road - traditionally one of the shabbier streets in London.

The Scottish football legend Denis Law was outraged by the move. He said: "We have done extremely well. We will still qualify again and considering the size of the country that is not bad going. We should do better than the Old Kent Road."

#### Chaplin family refuse to be made **Charlies over** the euro

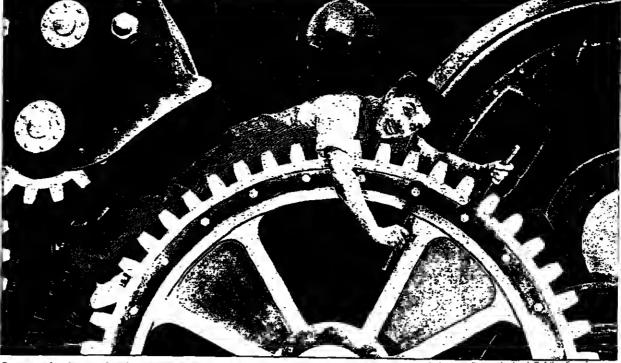
What does Charlie Chaplin make you think of? Comic calamities, an unsteady gait, a bumbling persona perhaps the qualities of an ideal candidate to promote the European currency. But, as Clare Gamer heard, his family have reservations.

Plans are afoot to employ the late Sir Charlie Chaplin to carry the world into the 21st century by extolling the virtues of European monetarism.

A French advertising company helieves that the Little Tramp's silent humour will be the perfect way to promote the birth of the euro for a project sponsored by the European Parliament. But though four of Chaplin's eight children voted in favour, three were against and one abstained.

Christopher Chaplin, 35, the youngest, who lives io

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN



Spanner in the works: Some of Chaplin's family are opposing the use of his memory to sell the euro

prospect of his father's creation being put to such use. "God help us if it catches on," he exclaimed yesterday. "Imagine Budget Day, or the announcement of another interest rate rise from the Bank of England. Up pops that 'little fellow we will have come to hate and dread."

He also worries about what such a campaign would say London, cannot hear the about society. "How stupid

have we become," he asks, if every piece of mildly complicated legislation needs to be explained by the "sickly sweet animated figures of our best known heroes"?

But Egon Ellenberg, of FRI Communications in Paris. can think of no one better than Charlie Chaplin to put across the Eurocurrency message." He's from nowhere and he's from everywhere."

Mr Ellenberg hopes to make a series of 15 animated films, each 26 minutes io length and representing a different European country. The cost would be \$7m, paid for by the European Parliament. The actors Peter Ustinoff and Sophia Loren bave agreed to do the voice-overs, to "translate between the man in the street, ie Charlie Chaplin, and

the Establishment". Although

he has a majority vote from the family, he must wait until 1 January for the final go-ahead.

As the stream of requests continues - a Chaplin cartoon and a Chaplin theme park are already in the pipeline -Christopher Chaplin will try to be faithful to his father's memory. "I feel we should concentrate on safeguarding the films. It's quite a beritage ... We should treat it carefully."

## Children left at risk of abuse

Ministers have summoned leaders of a local council after a report revealed nearly 200 children were being left at risk of abuse. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, examines concerns that Sefton council has failed its most vulnerable residents.

"Misdirected" resources and "inadequate" services have left both children and the elderly at risk, according to a major review into Sefton social services by the Audit Commission and the So-

cial Services Inspectorate. Nearly 200 children in urgent need of help and protection did not have a social worker and had not had a care plao drawn up. Children's homes in the Merseyside borough were also not being inspected as regularly that they should be, the review found.

Old people were also being put at risk - eight of the council's homes for the elderly did not meet health and safety standards. Nearly 300 assessed as first-priority cases were waiting for assessments or services.

The review estimated that it would take at least £2.5m to hring the homes up to scratch. At the same time they were dogged by high costs. While ori-

vately run or voluntary h cost on average £176 per week. Sefton's were costing £176 per week. The council confidence around £3m, it was calculated.

This is not the first time Sefton has come mader fire Earlier this week, Age Concern accused the council of acting like a bully by refusing to help with residential care until an old person has less than £1.500the price of a funeral.

The joint commission has a carried out reports on 10 authorities. "This is the first report ... where the local authority is not serving well the needs of the local community," Sir Herbert Laming, chief inspector of the SSL said. "Resources are being misdirected and services are inadequate. Social services have little prospect of being restored unless the council's leadership

takes robust and swift action. The health minister Pani Boateng said that he has insisted council leaders see him next week with an action plan. If they fail to come up with an effective strategy the Government has the power to impose

someone on the department. Steve Wilds, Sefton's newly appointed director of social services welcomed the report "It gives a clear agenda for the way forward," he said. " ... I am optimistic about the future. I believe the people of Setton can: look forward to the services they rightly deserve from Sefton's So-cial Services Department.":

#### **National Front election** candidate is jailed

A former National Froot byelectioo candidate who planned to "tear down the fabric of society" with a "vile aod evil" racist magazine months yesterday.

Rohin Gray, 35, was caught with huodreds of copies of Stormer, a publication produced by the farright Combat 18 group.

The boxer Frank Bruno's mother, Lynette, received death threats and was forced to move house after her address and telephone oumber were published. The £1.50 periodical, which preaches violence and death towards Jews, blacks and left-wingers,

has carried similar details about other high-profile personalities. Among them are the Liberal Demoorat leader Paddy Ashdown, the newsresponsible for a hate campaign against Frank Brinto's Vanessa Rollgrave, and Paul mother, was jailed for 18. Inc. 11. England footballer.

 And among photographs of former Third Reich leaders were instructions for making lethal car bombs...

Sentencing Gray at Southwark Crown Court, Judge George Bathurst-Norman told him: "In nearly 37 years in the law I thought I had seen everything - but I have oever seen material like this, so designed to stir up hatred against individuals and against groups."





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## Immigration rules to cover same-sex couples

airports.

of nowhere.

A D CETRON

've got to get into Paris.

Always stuck in the middle

The Government yesterday announced that it was changing the immigration rules relating to unmarried couples - including same-sex couples. Immigration minister Mike O'Brien said that the rules Labour had inherited from the previous government were "unsustainable and may have breached human rights law".

A new concession relating oo admitting partners in commoo law and samesex relationships will take effect from Monday, But Mr O'Brien said the criteria applied to them would be "much tighter than for those who can marry", thus retaining the "special position of marriage".

Uoder the oew rules, a couple will have to show that they have been living together for four years or more and iotend to continue to live together permaneotly. Once admitted, they will have to show that the relationship has continued for a further year before being allowed to settle in the United kingdom.

ction

In a statement, Mr O'Brien said Labour had always supported the fundamental principle of immigration rules, that someone already settled in the UK - such as a British citizen - could bring their spouse to join them, provided they met tests on the genuineness of the marriage and financial self-sufficiency.

To ensure good administration of the immigration system, "legal marriage must be the key to entry for the partner who is not British or not settled bere", said Mr O'Brien. However, some couples were barred by law from marrying, either because one partner could oot remarry or because they were of the same sex.

The new proposals were criticised by former Tory Home Office minister Ano Widdecombe, who said: "It undermines marriage and secondly it undermines immigration control. So the Labour Party have maoaged to deal a severe blow at both in one fell swoop.



Street, the heart of the Manchester gay scene, where the success of the annual Manchester Mardi Gras has been blamed for

attracting inquisitive heterosexual customers to the Photograph: Rob Bodman/NTI

**Manchester** club scene turns against heteros

The bars and clubs of the Canal Street area in Manchester, feeling threatened by the popularity of gay culture among the North-west's evellers, are turning straight men and women away.

Paul McCann asks if this is heterophobia or positive discrimination.

The attempt by the Conservative Party to reposition itself as gay-friendly is probably the last piece of news the Maner gay village needs.

Bars and clubs have started turning away straight customers in what some have described as wave of "Heterophobia", but which the clubs see as essential to the survival of the gay community, according to a documentary to be screened by Channel 5 tomorrow night.

Clubs like the Paradise Factory and Poptastic, and bars like Manto now employ drag queens and gay doormen to decide whether customers trying to gain entry really are gay.

We're not anti-straight," says Andrew O'Dwyer, manager of the Paradise Factory, which turns away 400 people every weekend. "They can come in as long as they come with gay friends. But what happens is if you get too many straight people in you get a change in atmosphere, the vibe changes.
"It also means you could

spend the whole night chatting someone up only to discover at the end of the night that you're not going to get anywhere."

"We get accused of discrimination, but it is positive discrimination, to try to maintain the atmosphere that attracts people in the first place."

John Hamilton, manager of Poptastic, says its easy to tell who is gay: "By the way they are dressed, by the way they act, their mannerisms and asking them who they kiss and where they go."

Mr O'Dwyer insists that his door policy doesn't mean that only gay "clones" can be Sunday 7pm.

admitted. "Rosie, who does the vetting on the door, is a gay persoo who spends a lot of time in gay clubs and bars and just gets to know the faces. And there are people we turn away who start to get abusive shouting "faggots" and 'queers" - so you know you've made the right decision."

The attraction for straight men and women is that the gay clubs offer a less threatening atmosphere than heterosexual venoes. "They know it is a nicecasy-going atmosphere and its a place where they can just chill out," Gordon Edwards, a doorman at the Paradise Factory told Channel 5. "You don't get the normal, how can you say it, idiot blokes, like you a r mally get in a straight club."

Mr Edwards even believes some straight men come to gay clubs looking for women. "The nicer girls who normally get hassled all night, they come here knowing they're not going to get hassled, so you get a straight lad who uses his bead a bit and comes bere."

Mr O'Dwyer is also concerned about the kind of straight men be lets in - in case they take offence at being approached by gay men. "If a woman gets her burn touched by a man she's offended. If a straight man has his bum touched by another man it an cause quite a bit of of-

Mr O'Dwyer blames the success of the annual Manchester gay Mardi Gras, which this year attracted 130,000 people to the gay village, and means there is now a rash of bars opening or planned that will oot be strictly gay.

There are people opening bars here who are almost homophobic, they are just cashing in. Some of the breweries are making an effort to maintain a gay atmosphere, but they're still just interested in

"Then there are restaurants like the Mash and Air, which is very nice, but is attracting the yuppic Cheshire set who would oever bave been seen here before".

• What's The Story? Channel 5,

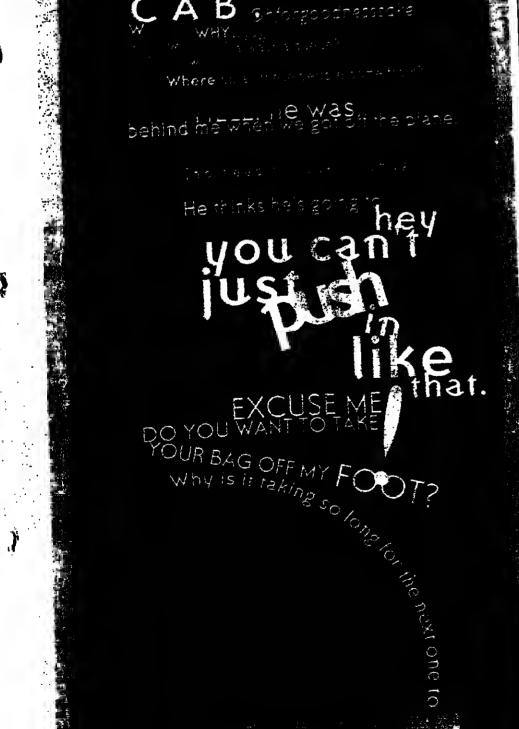
## Resort stabbing

questioned today in connection with the murder of a British holidaymaker who was found stabbed to death on a tourist beach. The body of 50-year-old Peter Simms was found on the beach at Sitges, a popular resort south of Barcelona, on Wednesday.

A local man had been arrested in connection with Mr Simms' murder and was to be interviewed by the examining magistrate investigating the case, said a spokesman at the British consulate in Barcelona. Mr Simms, who worked for

A Spanish man was due to be a mobile phone company in Coventry, and was thought to have been single, was due to return home to Northampton tomorrow, after a two-week holiday with a friend. His brother and mother were too upset to speak about his death.

In line with Spanish police practice, the suspect, a 44year-old local man, was named only by his initials of JOM. A judge is to decide in the next few days whether to release him on bail or keep him in custody. JOM, who was continuing to be questioned by officers, has not admitted murdering Mr Simms.



## BLACKPOOL SKETCH: DAVID AARONOVITCH

## Rapture as William passes the Dunrulin test

The hall at the Dunrulin Nursing Home for Retired Gentlefolk was both packed Hague!" and hushed. Row upon row of residents. dressed in their best suits, filled the chairs. At the side, in a place of prominence, sat Miss Evadne Trott of the local newspaper, physical proof of the success that had attended William's conference so far. and dread judge of its posterity for

The first figure to appear on the small stage was not, however, William himself. After much consultation the Outlaws had decided that the occasion required a build-up.

Eventually trial by combat had resulted in a decision that priority should be given to the young, the female and the essnic minorities ("essnic" being a mistranslation by William from Violet Elizabeth's lisping plea for diversity).

So it was that the day's proceedings commenced with a spirited, incongruous burst of "I've Got A Lovely Bunch of Cocoanuts", played by Cecil on the electric organ, followed by a muddy, happy Violet Elizabeth, who launched into an enthusiastic, if unstructured, commendation of

And then, on cuc, William himself appeared. He was immaculate. Every part of his visible physiognomy - ears, knees, neck, forehead and crown - had been scrubbed to a marvellous shine. His tie was straight, his shorts were clean. He was a credit to his mother.

William paused, glanced at Evadne Trott, and began. "This conference has been jolly good, an we've all been fresh!" He paused again, and his audience obliged him by clapping. "We've been a lol fresher 'n those Tony Blairites." Once again he was elapped. William looked belligerently from side to side, and went on. "That Tony Blair is nothin" but a rotien of cheat anyway, what steals all his pol'cies from us. Whenever we have a pol'cy they go an' steal it. S'no wonder we haven't got any pol'cies left. What's the point of havin' pol'cies, when other folks jus' keep on stealin' 'em?"

William felt that he had struck a rich vein of indignation, and that it was - even yet - not entirely exhausted. Mindful of Violet Elizabeth's injunctions on the

subject of compassion, he now raised his voice. "An' what about carin'? They say we don't care. Well we jolly well do care! If I see an oi' lady at the side of the road, I jolly well grab her arm an' drag her across, no matter how much traffic is

comin'. We care more 'n anyone, acshually. It's jus' we don' always go tellin' people how much we care.'

In this confessional mood, William now moved on to the subject of past errors. "An' we made mistakes," he admitted. "A' course we made mistakes. It's only yuman to make mistakes. An'mals might not make mistakes, an' I s'pose robots might not make mistakes. But yumans do, and I am a yuman!" Here William paused for effect, and achieved assent from all around the hall that he was, indeed, a yuman. "Mind you," William continued, "apart from that catapult goin' wrong and hreakin' a window at the cottage hospital - and that wun't really my fault, 'cos it was a rotten catapult - apart from that I can't acshually think of a mistake, but I'm sure we made 'em, 'cos we're yuman.'

With this flourish William had at last reached the end of his speech, and of the conference. As Dunrulin erupted into a restrained frenzy of brittle applause. William gave a high whistle, and his faithful Welsh collie, Jenkins, leapt into his arms, licking his face joyfully. It was, William thought, his happiest moment.

## The new tolerance fails to extend to consent for gays

John Redwood yesterday said he would vote for the age of consent for gays to be increased to 21. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, finds that the Tory party supports William Hague's revolution on family values, but only

Some Tory traditionalists were ready to accept the need for tolerance towards gays, single parents, and the changing British family. But tolerance did not extend to reducing the age of consent for gays from 18 to 16.

up to a point.

"I believe in the institution of marriage," said Stanley Rendall, a grandfather and chairman of the Norwich North association. "However we would rather not have had all the changes we have had, we have to be tolerant. We must accept there is a lot of change in the world." The change should not extend to legalising gay sex at 16, he said.

Carrying a Union flag and a St George's flag, Brenda Collins, 62, returned to South Holland and the Deepings in Lincolnshire uplifted by William Hague's speech. Like many traditional Tory activists, she said the trend away from married life was "unfortunately a sign of the times".

She added: "I'm not against gay people, in fact, some of them are really nice but they should never have children." She was also opposed to reducing the age of consent to 16. "No way - and I don't like paedophiles. They should lock them up and throw away the key."

John Redwood, the leading right-wing voice in Mr Hague's Shadow Cabinet, was relieved that the passage in the leader's speech on the family was not as hiberal as had been billed in some newspapers. He said Mr Hague had reinforced support for the tamily, not undermined it by support for gay relationships. "If they are not breaking the law, that's fine by me," he said about gays. "I would go for the higher age of consent. I voted for 21 and f would do that again, but that is a free vote matter. I don't go round campaigning on it."

Jain Duncan-Smith, social security spokesman, said the family had to be supported through tax and benefits. "I am simply saying we believe in the traditional family," he said.

Shadow Home Secretary, Sir Brian Mawhinney reflected the mood of many traditionalists when he said the Tories had to accept that the traditional family was changing, through divorce and life-style. "I thought his [Hague's] explanation was exactly right. We have spent so much time defending the concept of Conservative values that impressions were created that didn't accurately reflect the Conservative Party ... we created the impression that if you weren't in a traditional nuclear family, we weren't interested in you. I don't think that was ever true."

#### Sam, friendly face of the party, gets the sack

The Tories called for 'compassion' at the seaside. But Colin Brown discovers that at home it is sacking its own office staff.

Sam Anderson was answering the telephones in the press office at Conservative Central Office yesterday, minding the shop while the staff were in Blackpool for the party's

annual conference. Mr Anderson, 50, will he out of a job by the end of the month. He is one of more than 50 party workers who are being made redundant or given early retirement to cut costs at the party's headquarters in Smith Square and regional offices.

As a messenger who carried press releases to the Commons, Mr Anderson is angry about being made redundant from his £15,000-ayear job after 12 years with the Tory party. "I was always invited to Christmas cocktails when Maggie was in office. I presented her with a blue carnation when she won the election in 1983. I feel very sad about being made redundant." he said.

The clear-out of staff has heen earried out hy Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, and his deputy. Archie Norman, the Asda supermarket boss, to shake-up the

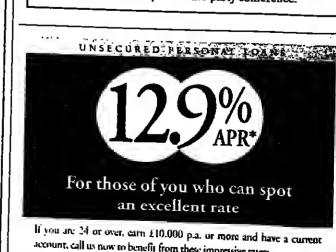


party machine. Lord Parkinson told staff last week that the party headquarters cost £10.5m a year and would go bankrupt if it continued spending at that rate.

Some of those who are going are haffled by the cuts. which include two officials who acted as the link to ethnic groups, Conservative trade unionists and Tory graduates. One insider said: "William Hague has devoted part of his agenda to developing the voluntary wing, and reaching out to young people, and ethnic groups, and yet they make these cuts. It doesn't make sense."

There are about 40 redundancies and early retirements in the regions, with a further 20 jobs cut in Central Office, including research staff and press officers who were in the front line at the election, and were on duty this week in Blackpool at the party conference.

L.



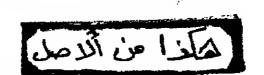
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## Hague offers balance of apology and pride

William Hague yesterday began the long-haul task of rebuilding the fighting spirit of his crushed party. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, analyses the leader's wind-up speech.

Conservative representatives in Blackpool gave their leader a standing ovation for a skilled and accomplished performance in which he tried to bury the May defeat and make his party fit for government once more.

In a key passage, Mr Hague said: "I want to tell you about a changing Conservatism that acknowledges its mistakes. But I also want to tell you about a proud Conservatism that has served this nation well and will do so again."

There were fewer apologies than Michael Portillo made in his conference frioge speech on Thursday night. Nothing was said of the higher tax hurden and the imposition of value-added tax on fuel; or for the scapegoating of single mothers, rises in hospital waiting lists, crime rates, unemployment, inner city riots or poor educational standards. While Mr Hague appealed for tolerance, he also expressed an unshakahle belief in the values of traditional family life.

His big apology was for the 1990 decisioo - with Margaret Thatcher as prime minister and John Major as chancellor of the exchequer - to take sterling into the European ex-

change rate mechanism. Yet Mr Hague was quick to

point out that almost everyone in the country had hacked the decisioo at the time.

As for the euro, Mr Hague stuck to the Shadow Cabinet compromise formula, saying the Tories would not favour abolishing the pound for the foreseeable future.

But, using a phrase that will disturb the party's dichard Euro-sceptics - those who believe that too much power has already been ceded to Brussels - Mr Hague, on the subject of European integration, said: "Io my opinion, we are near that

The stroogest passages of the speech were reserved for Labour, although the spindoctors' promised attack on Mr Blair's "bossiness" did not appear in the final version.

One word Mr Hague repeated a number of times was "community" - ooe of the basic words io Tooy Blair's new Labour vocabulary.

The Cooservative analysis, confirmed by the leader, is that Labour lacks core values, and their deep-seated cynicism will evectually generate public contempt. Mr Hague said be hoped for success in the local elections in May, where Labour would be defeoding a record of poor services and high taxes the test on which the Conservatives suffered a landslide defeat in the geoeral election.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, commented: "No matter how hard William Hague tries, he cannot disguise two fundamental problems. Their policies were wrong and remain wrong. And their claims of unity are utterly bogus, as the continuing conflict over Europe shows."



No strings attached: A puppet of the Tory leader amid the flag-wavers during the closing rendition of Land of Hope and Glory'

## The freshest and most exciting occasion for years, says leader

in a speech which concentrated more on attacking Labour and rousing the troops than on analysing the future direction of Conservative policy, William Hague said the week had been a success. From Abroms watched as the party faithful gave rousing cheers and a standing ovation to their

The Conservative Party was not dead. William Hague told a packed hall. Last week's Blackpool conference was the freshest, the most constructive and the most exciting for years. A process of reform had heguo which would transform the world's oldest political party into a fighting force equipped for the 21st ceotury, he said.

Six months from now, we will have our, the foundation of a new, united, inclusive, democratic, deceotralised and open party. Never again will we have a divided organisation. Never again will the voice of our members go unheard, and oever again will we allow the good name of our party to be hlackened by the greed and selfishness of a few," he said. "This week this party has got up off its knees. This week we've shown that we're back to husiness."

Attacking Labour local authorities, Mr Hague said the Tories' first job would be to win back council seats to elections next May. "At best, Labour in local government is about failing schools, poor services, littered streets and high taxes. At worst it is about crooyism, corruption and abuse of power. It stinks, and it is time for the Conservative Party to clean it up," he said.

Mr Hague outlined his own hrand of conservatism, describing it as democratic, compassionate, tolerant and forward-looking, while respecting traditional values,

Labour might espouse such values but it was insincere, he said. "Just because they use our language, and bave swapped the donkey jacket for the Armani suit, doesn't mean they actually believe in the principles that give that language its purpose ... They doo't helieve in anything except their own political success. As Labour admitted last week, for them the prime goal of government is to secure their own re-election."

Labour had introduced a cynicism into British politics, he said. The Conservatives were going to remain the party of principle.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats were "jigging along to the Pied Piper of Downing Street", he said, "Paddy's proved a real push-over. He's been completely seduced."

Setting out his political principles, he said he believed in freedom, eoterprise, eduention, self-reliance, compassion and the United Kingdom.

The state should eocourage people to help themselves: "Self-reliance hrings dignity and satisfaction. We all want to provide for ourselves and our families. That's not greed. It's not selfishness. It's the most ancient human instinct of all." But Tories must cootinue to work to help others, as they already did quietly through voluntary groups and charities all over the country. "Don't tell me the Conservative Party is not a caring party. I want everyone to uoderstand this: compassion is not a bolt-on extra to conservatism. It's at its very core ...

"When Labour talk about society, they mean the state. When they talk about the community, they mean politicians. And when they talk about compassion, they mean a cheque drawn on someone else's account. But for Conservatives, compassion doeso't end when you've sent off your tax cheque."

The Tories believed in patriotism and they believed in the United Kingdom. Devolution would destroy that. "We have every right to be proud. Ours is a nation which has shaped the civilised world ... To lead the people into the casual destruction of our constitution and leave them with disillusionment and instability io the years to come is an abdication of leadership."

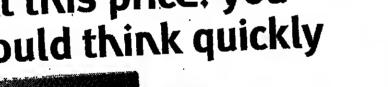
Conservatives believed in a strong Europe, but in a Europe of nation states. "I have to tell you, there is a limit to European iotegration. And I must say, in my opinion, we are oear that limit now. The great danger is not that Britain will be left behind in Europe, but that Europe will be left hehind in the world," he said.

Acknowledging the difference which still existed in the party over the abolition of the pouod, he underlined his promise to give MPs a free vote on the issue.

Britain still needed the Tory Party, he. concluded. "The family that works bard, saves hard, tries to be iodependent of the state and believes in their country needs the Conservative Party. We shall speak for them. We will always be on their side.

"We leave here this week with our hopes restored, our beliefs reaffirmed, our faith renewed. We leave as a party ready to earn once more the trust of the nation we love."

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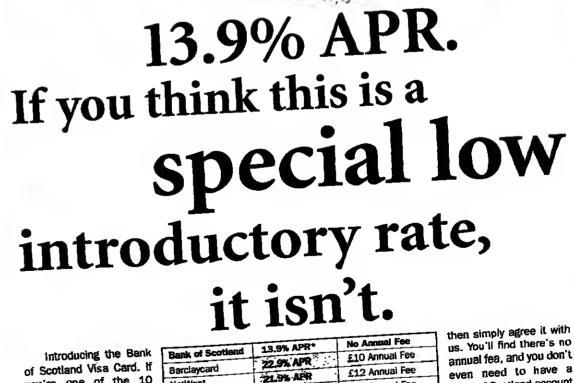
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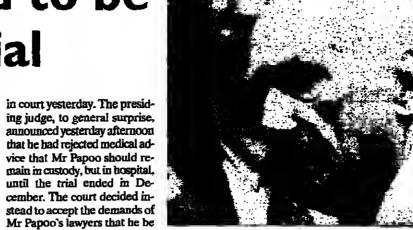
## Papon allowed to be free during trial

Maurice Papon, the Vichy official on trial in Bordeaux for "crimes against humanity", may oever serve another day in jail, even if he is convicted. The court decided yesterday that Mr Papon, 87, should be freed during his trial, in deference to his advanced age and medical condition. Uoder Freoch law, this ruliog will also apply if he is coovicted and sentenced to prison but lodges an immediate appeal. Such an appeal could last for several years. It took 16 years to bring the present trial to court.

Relatives of some of the 1,558 Jews who were arrested on Papoo's orders, and died in

protested hitterly against the in court yesterday. The presidcourt judgment yesterday. At their lawyers' demand, the trial was suspended until Monday. René Jacob, one of several people who have started civil actions against Papon, said: "The worst of all is that whatever the court finally decides, if Maurice Papon takes the case to appeal, he will probably die peacefully at home ... There is oothing more to be done. I'm going home to seed back my military papers. As of tonight, I am oo longer Jewish nor French."

During his third night in jail on Thursday, Mr Papon was taken ill with suspected heart trouble. He was moved to a hospital Nazi concentration camps, but was well enough to appear



Maurice Papon: Age and health mean he may never spend another night in jail, even if he is found guilty

suffering from acute angina. One of Papon's lawyers, Marcel Rouxel, said that, if he had had to sleep in a prison cell, he was "super-sure" he would have died during the trial.

Michel Slitinsky, the son of

pon's orders and the man who dug up the evidence incriminating him in 1981, commented: "They say he is a very old man. In the deportation convoys, there were very young

- John Lichfield, Paris

## Jospin to pay firms that cut working week to 35 hours

companies which move rapidly to a shorter working week, so long as they create new

The Prime Minister, Liooel Jospin, made this promise yesterday in an attempt to extricate himself from an earlier promise: that he will impose a 35-hour week within the next five years.

He was speaking at the start of a conference of government, employers and unions on unemployment at the official prime ministerial residence in Paris.

Employers' federations have rejected the Socialists' original campaign promise - a reduction in statutory working hours from 39 hours to 35 without loss of pay as economically suicidal. Mr Jospin, in government, has come around to their point

But the main union federations went to vesterday's meeting still insisting on the spirit, if not the letter, of Mr Jospin's election pledge. Left-wing elements of his own coalition government are also insisting oo a

The French government plans to subsidise rapid move to a 35-hour week. The prime minister said yesterday that he would decide how to square this circle after he hadheard all sides speak at the conference. He said that he intended to bring forward a framework law which would "launch the movement" towards a shorter working

However, he hinted that this would, at least at first, be voluntary. Those companies which took the lead, and created new jobs, would be eligibile for "financial aid to diminish labour costs".

The economics of this oew idea appeared strange, to say the least. Even leftleaning Freech ecocomists and commentators have poured cold water on the original suggestion that a shorter working week will create jobs. Now Mr Jospin seemed to be saying that public finances, already under great pressure to meet the guidelines for a single currency, would be used to "buy" reduced working

- John Lichtleld

freed unconditionally.

The court said it had takeo

the decision because there was

that Papon would pressurise

witnesses (most of whom are

dead) and because of his great

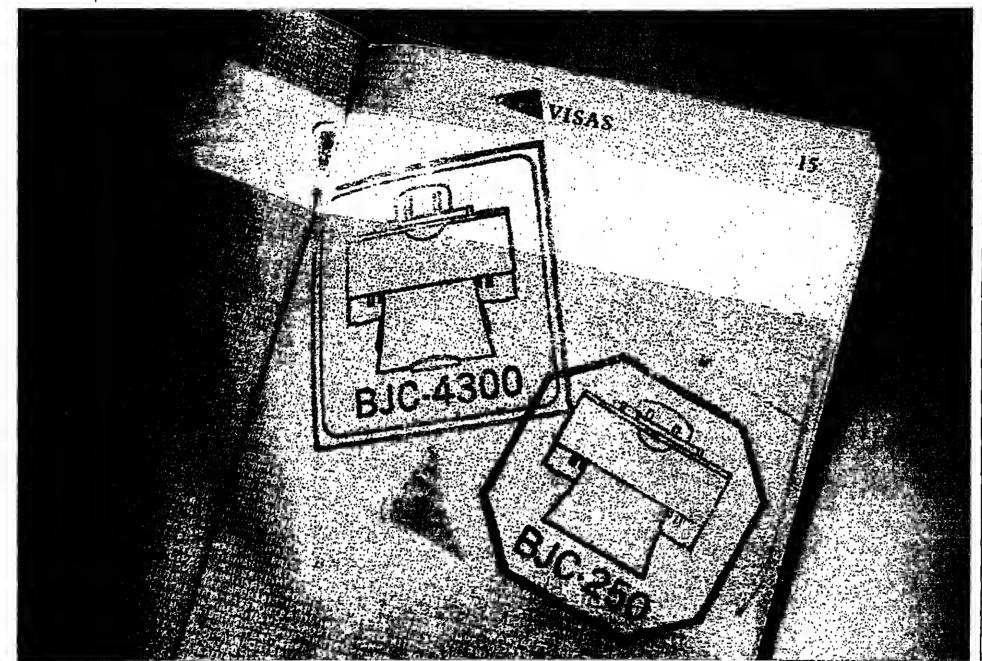
age and medical condition. Pa-

poo, who went oo after the war

to become Paris police chief

and French budget minister, is

'no risk of flight", oo chance



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#### Italy's PM rebuffs coalition plan by communists

Italy's caretaker Prime Minister Romano Prodi reacted coolly to a hardline Communist proposal for a one-year coalition, saying this must be discussed seriously and oot through the media. Mr Prodi told journalists that he was oot prepared to discuss any proposals still hased on the strong stand the hardline Communist Refoundation took against his austerity hudget which led to his government's fail.

#### Serb nationalists win Brcko

Bosnian Serb nationalists woo local elections in the fiercely contested town of Brcko, defeating Moslem and Croat parties supported by refugees expelled from the area in wartime. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) mission, which organised municipal elections in Bosnia last month, said three Serb parties won a majority of 30 seats on the 56-member town council. Five parties from the Moslem-Croat federation secured 26 seats on the council.

#### IMF loans for Croatia

The International Monetary Fund released almost \$80m in loans for Croatia. The United States, the IMF's largest shareholder, bad led complaints that the former Yugoslav republic was not meeting the terms of the 1995 Dayton peace accord which ended the Bosnia war. The deadlock was broken this week when Zagreb handed over 10 suspects to the war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

#### American runs for Lithuania

president of the Baltic country, finding that he had met the resideocy requirement. Valdas Adamkus, 70, who recently retired as regional manager for the US Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, has been considered a front-runner for the 21 December elections. But the electoral commission had refused earlier this month to issue Adamkus the necessary voter petitioos on the grounds that he had not lived in Lithuania for three years.

#### Ecstasy racket broken

Military police in the Netherlands have busted a large-scale drug ring that made millions of ecstasy pills and sold 5,000 to 10,000 per week to two officers, one based in Utrecht, and the other in Munster, north-west Germany. It said the pair were arrested with four other people who ran an operation capable of manufacturing up to 50,000 ecstasy pills per hour. Authorities in Gouda said the officer in Germany had operated on his own, and that German officials did not plan to investigate further.

## **Britain snubbed** in Euro-summit

Russia, Germany and France was very pleased with the dewill hold annual summits to co-Ordinate policies on common problems challeoging them. Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced yesterday.

The decision is a huge snuh to Britain, which is not appareothy not considered to be in the front rank of European powers. With French President

Jacques Chirac at his side during a break in a Council of Europe summit, Mr Yeltsin said that the three countries faced similar problems and should work together to solve them. France and Germany al-

ready hold summits every six months to co-ordinate European policy, and the trilateral summit - the first joining countries from across the former Cold War divide - marked a further step in Russia's reintegration into Europe.

"All three have common problems," said Mr Yeltsin, who, in recent weeks, has been urging Europeans to unite more against outside interference, a veiled criticism of the United States and the plan to expand

the Nato alliance eastwards. "We have agreed to meet together every year." he said. "We have agreed this was indispensable for the creation of a Grand Europe which includes

Russia." Mr Chirac said he

cision and added: "I think this represents an important European force and a necessary element to further assure peace."

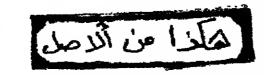
Mr Yeltsin, looking fit after his heart surgery last year, said that the time and place of the first trilateral summit had not yet been decided.

"I'll go where Jacques tells me to go and if Helmut invites us, I'll accept his invitation," he said. "I'd like to invite them too." Chirac promptly suggested the first meeting could be in Sverdlovsk, Mr Yeltsin's political power base in Siberia.

While most summit participants have limited themselves to urging the Council to do more to protect human rights, Mr Yeltsin has come to the summit to claim a central role for Russia in a new united Europe.

Left out of the European Union and Nato, he would like to see the Council play a larger role in European affairs alongside the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). "A Europe without Russia is oo Europe." he said last week.

Recognised as a key figure in ending the Cold War, the Kremlin chief has a warm receptioo from summit host Mr



## Bitter Afrikaners go north to set up white-only territory

A 'Boer Republic' is being established this weekend just 50 miles east of Pretoria. Its founders - 200 Afrikaner families - say it is their right to go it alone. The blacks they evicted disagree. Now, the beleaguered whites once again circle the wagon trains.

Wind and heavy drizzle batter the headstone in the middle of the cemetery. In Afrikaans, T and B Steyn have inscribed "Here lies our dear Ella, born 12 January 1898, died 18 December 1901 in the concentration camp at Balmoral."

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Around Ella's tiny grave are hundreds of others - mostly without stones - for the women and children who perished in the camp set up by the British during the Boer war just beyond the dirt road. More than 26,000 Afrikaners, mainly women and children, perished io such camps.

Apart from Ella, the bodies and names are largely unmatched and victims share the memorial engraved with their names at the eotrance gate. The least fortuoate are piled in mass graves at the far corner of the cemetery; history will ocver remember their oames.

The conceotratioo camps are etched on the consciousness of every Afrikaner, marking an episode of appalling victimisation of a people who would later become racial oppressors.

This weekeod the graveyard finds itself at the heart of a oew "Boer Republic" on laod jointly porchased by 200 Afrikaner families from which black people will be hanned. It will be governed by the old, austere. Calvinist principles which in the 19th century sent the fiercely independeot Afrikaners trekking in wagon trains from the Cape ioto the wild interior to escape British

Since the comiog of hlack majority rule io 1994, de-

posed Afrikaners have begun to trek again, heading north into Malawi, Zamhia and Mozamhique, setting up farms and Boer-only communities. At home, 600 have trekked imo the northern Karoo to found Orania, whose patroo saint is Hendrik Verwoerd, the reviled architect of apartheid, and where hlacks are so unwel-

clean their own streets.

Balmoral is the most bizarre exercise in Afrikaner exclusivity so far. For these trekkers shareholders in the new Bocre Republick Kooperatief Beperk (Boer Republic Co-operative Ltd) - have barely left the mainstream to circle the wagons. The republic - 470 acres of farmland - lies just off a main motorway. 50 miles east of

It is apt that the graveyard should lie at its centre, for once again Afrikaners feel victimised and under attack. "The intention of this regime is to destroy us," said Andries Campher, 53, a towering farmer with rough, shovel-sized hands, and one of the founders. "We just want to survive financially as a group, with our own identity still

#### BY MARY **BRAID**

intact." The alternative, he insists, is annihilation.

Mr Campher complains about affirmative action for hlacks and rising white unemployment. Christian values, he says, are being eroded to schools where educational standards are plummeting and Afrikaans is oo looger spoken. To stop the rot Boers must build their own communities, husioesses, homes and schools; and govern once again, albeit in a miniature kingdom.

Hopes have evaporated that the South African government

#### ERROR IN POPULATION

Three months ago South Africa was shocked to discover its population was only 38 million, four million less than previously thought. Calcul were apparently confused by the previous regime's over-estimate of black fertility rates.

Of the 38 million, 77 per cent are classified black, 12 per cent white, 9 per cent coloured (mixed race) and 2 per cent Asian. Roughly 60 per cent - 26 million - of white South Africans are Afrikaners, though their language Afrikaans is the third most spoken in the country after Zulu (22 per cent) and Xhosa (18 per cent).

Afrikaans is also far more common than English as a second language yet English, must to tha ire of Afrikaners, is increasingly being adopted as the official "neutral" language of new South Africa.

will hand over land for a Volk- the political changes he was nevstaat. And provided you are white and Afrikaner the Balmoral "republic" offers democracy. Every investor owns the same share and has an equal say in government. Although not all of the 200 investors will live on the land, some will begin laying the foundations for new

come that whites prefer to intends to huy more land later.

And land is the thorny issue. For the new republic has already evicted local black people. According to Mr Campher, farm workers employed by the previous owner were told that their labour was no longer needed. He claims they hung around for a while but eventually disappeared.

Blacks have told another story. One weeping woman says that the Boers conducted a campaign of terror and intimidatioo, forcing her off the land she was born on.

"Thai's rubbish," said Mr Campher. "They just moved on. I oever spoke to them personally. They were nothing to me then and they are nothing to me now." New legislation which would have strengthened black workers' rights to tenure does not come into effect for another few months. In recent months farmers all over South Africa have been evicting blacks before the new laws are introduced, Mr Campher says he was well aware that the legislation was

The African National Coogress says that the Boer Republic Co-operative has operated lawfully. But the Pan Africanist Congress says the ANC is failing to grasp the land issue and is allowing Afrikaners to grab land as if it was still the 19th century.

Fritz Meyer, another "republic" founder, insists that the Afrikaner families are simply setting up a business and that racism plays oo part. But the founders clearly feel they are the true defeoders of the Thesterday, they petisigned the Boush High Commission in Pretoria for an apology for the con-

centration \* "camp deaths. The vast majority of Afrikaners who are trying to find their place inside, oot outside, the new South Africa are seen by some as traitors.

As Mr Campher conducted a tour of the cemetery, two middle-aged Afrikaners from nearby Witbank looked on. One rolled his eyes in disbelief. "This republic is just not viable," he said. His friend says the new South Africa is certainly tougher. Before

er out of work. He has just spent six months unemployed.

But he has an interesting take oo the old wagoo metaphor. "It will do oo good if the ozen pulling the wagon go m opposite directions," he said. "All South Africans must pull together now." He shrugged, homes this weekend. The group without a hint of bitterness.





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## Short leaps to defence of Rwanda

Clare Short has backed the Rwandan government, which has been criticised for human rights abuses. The British Cabinet minister said the country was the victim of genocide. Amelia French reports from Kigali.

Ms Short dismissed accusations that prisoners in Rwanda are held in appallingly overcrowded conditions, and claims of human rights abuses,

"You can't just denounce the fact that there's lots of people in prison. They're charged with genocide," Ms Short said. She was speaking during a visit yesterday to Gikondo prison, just outside the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

More than 120,000 people are believed to he held in prisons and makeshift jails

which members of the country's Hutu A doctor?" she said. He nodded. majority killed 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu jails, prisoners barely have room to move. pen in Rwanda?" she asked.

"We have to give support that will help them to get people to trial, and other ways of helping to rebuild the country, but pretending that genocide didn't happen and certainly turning on the government of Rwanda because there are too many people in prison is the international community once again not accepting its responsibilities. Denouncing Rwanda is a disgrace," she said. She said the whole international community was guilty of what happened in Rwanda.

During her tour, Ms Short spoke hriefly to prisoners. Perched on raised shelves to create more space, inmates looked at the visitors with weary curiosity.

Ms Short questioned a gynaecologist in charge of Aids patients. Dr Cyridion Ukulikiyimfura was wearing the regulation pink prison uniform. "So you're ac-

awaiting trial for the 1994 genocide in cused of being involved in the genocide?

"So let me ask you - you're an eduopponents to the former regime. In some cated man - why did the genocide hap-

> "It was bad education for the population since the Sixties. There were deep divisions within the society," Dr Ukulikiyimfura said. "It's not your size or the shape of your nose or whatever that allows to divide ourselves. We have the same language and the same culture."

Ms Short dismissed recent reports criticising the Rwandan army for killing unarmed civilians during operations against Hutu rebels in north-west Rwanda. A recent report by Amnesty Interna-

tional alleged that 6,000 people, most of them unarmed civilians, were killed in Rwanda between January and August this year, mainly by the Rwandan army.

Ms Short was on the second of a twoday visit to Rwanda. The money pledged to Rwanda is to be spent on education, justice and revenue collection.



Short: the whole international community is guilty over Rwanda

## Truce heralds peace in Papua New Guinea

island of Bougainville signed a truce yesterday but said a lasting agreement lay in the hands of political leaders.

"A momentum for peace is already under way." said the Prime Minister, Bill Skate, in a statement released in Port Moresby welcoming the signing of the peace

The so-called Burnham Truce was reached after 10 days of talks at the Burnham army camp, near New Zealand's South Island city of Christchurch.

The conflict, which has claimed thousands of lives and displaced many into care centres, began when landowners revolted in 1988 over damage caused by the huge Panguna copper mine and the royalties they received from it.

Bougainville has been a huge political headache for Papua New Guinea, and the former prime minister Sir Julius Chan this year provoked the country's higgest crisis since independence in 1975 by trying to bring in Anglo-South African mercenaries

Warring factions on the Papua New Guinea to put down the rebellion around the mine: The mine now closed, is owned by an arm of the Anglo-Australian giant Rio Tinto Ltd.

The interim truce agreement outlined immediate measures to stop fighting pending a formal meeting of leaders, hopefully by the end of January.

Signatories were representatives of the Papua New Guinea government, the Bougainville Transitional Government which it hacks, the rebel Bougainville Interim Government and its associate the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, as well as Papua New Guinea security forces and

resistance commanders. The truce said its signatories agreed to what it called "immediate interim measures" including refraining from acts of

armed confrontation. The various factions also pledged to respect human rights, promote peace and reconciliation in the community and lift all restrictions to restore freedom of movement to islanders, subject to "appropriate clear-

#### Japan's youth told to shape up and get fit

Japan's Education Ministry had a message for the country's youth on the national sports day holiday - "shape up and get fit, you're falling behind,

According to a ministry survey, today's teenagers are less fit and athletic than their predecessors of a decade ago. The ministry said today's teens scored lower in physical fitness and athletic ability than those who took the test in 1986. The biggest decline was among 18-year-old hoys and girls.

#### Los Angeles editor resigns

Shelby Coffey III resigned after nine years as editor of the Los Angeles Times and was replaced by managing editor Michael Parks in a makeover that included a major reorganisation of news and husiness operations. The changes were announced by the newspaper as part of a campaign by publisher Mark H Willes to boost circulation by 50 per cent to 1.5 million.

#### Surprise leader for Kazakhstan

Oil-rich Kazakhstan's market reforms were thrown into doubt yesterday by the surprise appointment of the state oil boss as prime minister. Diplomats and investors in Kazakhstan had already factored in the departure of its embattled reformist prime minister. Akezhan Kazhegeldin, But his replacement, Nurlan Balgimbayev, the head of state oil company Kazakhoil, took them

#### Church watches over Africa

African church leaders ended a six-day assembly in the Ethiopian capital, pledging to speak out against human rights abuses on the world's poorest continent. The clerics, meeting under the auspices of the All-Africa Council of Churches (AACC), and presided over hy Nobel peace laureate, Desmond Tulu, of South Africa, gave notice to African leaders that their administrations would come under close scrutiny.

#### US has field day with corn crop

As the barvest gets into full swing, estimates for this year's United States corn crop rose slightly to 9.31 billion hushels - the thirdlargest crop in history, the Agriculture Department reported. The October corn projection is 44 million bushels higher than last month's forecast and 18 million hushels more than the 1996 crop. This year's crop, if realised, will trail only the 1992 and 1994 corn harvests in size.

#### Clinton curbs tax agency power

**President Bill Clinton** yesterday announced plans to 'reinvent' the tax agency and rein in overzealous revenue collectors. As Mary Dejevsky reports, he was trying to quell a growing public outcry against the most feared and detested institution in the United States.

This was one of the very few occasions in Bill Clinton's presidency when he was late - and he knew it. Normally a consummate judge of the popular mood, he had spent the past two weeks seeming to protect the Internal revenue Service (IRS) from charges that it was callous, malicious and out of control. Yesterday, he said he was introducing a package of 200 measures to make the IRS more accountable and responsive to taxpayers' complaints.

The measures include the abolition of targets for the amount of tax to be collected by individual IRS offices, an extension of payment deadlines for people with health problems, the formation of local appeals boards, and a new board of trustees with a private sector majority to "ensure service every bit as good as in the private sector".

Mr Clinton said, somewhat defensively, that he believed this was "the right way" to reform the agency, his only allusion to calls for the abolition of the IRS following revelations of ahuses at recent congressional hearings. The three-day hearings had produced a torrent of hitter complaints from small businesses and families about what they saw as vindictive and even unlawful treatment by the IRS.

The IRS is one of the few institutions in the United States which can cow the most rightsconscious Americans. Those testifying at the hearings spoke of an agency with "unbridled power" that behaved as "judge, jury and executioner. Some broke down as they told of families ruined by "the one court in the land where you are guilty until proven innocent".

While acknowledging the justice of many complaints, Mr Clinton had initially defended the overall integrity of the service - a move that allowed exultant Republicans to call for the wholesale overhaul, if not abolition, of the IRS and the present tax code.

The changes announced by Mr Clinton yesterday - for a modest reform of the status quo coupled with enhanced taxpayers' rights - were dismissed by Republicans as inadequate. NATIVE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC COAST, Oncorhyochus Mykiss, the Steelhead Trout, migrates upstream from the sea to spawn. Sometimes reaching nearly 8,000ft above sea level. The sort of altitude where you'll also come across something else in its natural habitat: the Jeep Grand Cherokee. A Grand Cherokee will take you into the wildest terrain, whilst its anti lock discs are there to stop you (literally) bumping into any grizzlies. Along with a muscular 2.5 litre turbo diesel or 4.0 litre petrol engine, the Grand Cherokee Laredo's extensive





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Killer floods cause havoc in Acapulco

El Nino, the climatic phenomenon that distorts weather the world over, is reaping a bitter harvest in Mexico. Floods in Acapulco have killed over a hundred.

She disappeared as quickly as she had come but left Mexicans and foreign tourists in a state of shock. No one will forget the day Pauline came to Acapulco.

As the hurricane winds died to an eerie whisper yesterday, residents of the popular Pacific resort faced the gruesome task of trying to find the hodies of missing relatives among the hundreds of corpses recovered

after Thursday's disaster. Holding handkerchiefs over their noses, they walked between rows of deformed, floodbloated bodies, including several childreo in pyjamas or nightdresses, laid out on the concrete floor of the Acapulco

municipal morgue. Mexican officials confirmed at teast 122 dead, mostly in Acapulco. Also badly hit were the rest of the state of Guerrero and the neighbouring state of Ozoraca. More than 250 were injured and dozens were still missing. One report spoke of three German tourists missing from a nudist beach resort at

Meteorologists warned that although Pauline had faded from a Category 3 burricane to a mere tropical depression yesterday over southern Mexico, she could stage a revival farther north, closer to the US border, over the weekend.

Experts at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said the suddenness and unexpected fury of Pauline, as well as the speed with which the hurricane dissipated, appeared to be the result of the so-called "El Niño" (The Christ Chitd) weather phenomeoon. Under the phenomenon, warm Pacific currents off the west coast of South America are pushing farther north than usual, changing weather patterns along the

"It's a normal hurricane season in the eastern Pacific. We've had 16 named storms, eight of which developed into hurricanes," said Frank Lepore, a National Hurricane Ceotre spokesman. "But typically, if they start off Mexico, they bead west-north-west out into the open ocean. With the warmer waters, they are now rending to go north and northeast on to land, including the south-western United States."

That is what bappened last month when Hurricane Linda - the most intense hurricane ever recorded, while it was over the eastern Pacific caused widespread flooding in h-west Arizona. Hurricane Nora also dumped unprecedented rainfalls on Arizona.

El Niño bas also been blamed for recent floods in Peru, off whose coast the phenomenon originates, and Chile, where tens of thousands of people have lost their homes and floodwaters bave brought a worrying upsurge in the virusspreading rat population.

The Hurricane Centre in Miami expressed surprise that El Niño, which had not been expected to reveal major effects until around Christmas, had shown itself so early. They said the phenomenon could be foltowed by the reverse effect duhbed La Niña (The Little

Girl) - as the warm currents that bad moved north shift back southwards. That could bring serious drought to Mexico and the southern US, they

In Acapulco, a partying and gamhting mecca for the Hollywood stars of the Forties and Fifties, and more recently a haven for Mexican politicians and millionaires, the effects of Hurricane Pauline served as a remioder of Mexico's wealth gap. The American-style highrise chain hotets along the beach emerged unscathed but for eroded beaches and flooded cellars, while the shanty towns above, on the 3,000-ft ridge behind the city, were devastated by tandslides.

Mexican peasants from inland Guerrero or other states flock to Acapulco and build simple homes while looking for work as waiters or maids, or other jobs serving those who sippiña coladas in the hotels or night-clubs below.

Most of the dead were swept away, many while still in their wooden homes, as driving

#### BYPHIL **DAVISON**

rains turned normally dry river beds into raging torrents and mudslides. Boulders the size of cars were swept downbill, crushing bomes. Horrified neighbours watched as one stone house plunged downhill as though it were a raft negotiating rapids. Bodies could be seen protruding from mud, arms outstretched as though they had been desperately trying to grab something solid.

We were asleep when the water came smashing through our living-room. We all got out alive except for my sister," Rafaet Diaz Servin, a 35-yearold waiter, told a Reuters reporter as he stood over his sister Laura, covered by a sheet of blue plastic, in the morgue.

Cars and bodies tittered Acapulco Bay, ever known as the world's cleanest zone. The city had been trying to clean up the bay, traditionally polluted by direct sewage from the city, but most tourists preferred to stick to their seafroot hotel swimming pools, to the newer tourist resort of Huatulco, the Sheraton hotel appeared to have lost its entire beach yesterday. And in Puerto Escondido, where surfers from around the world flock to ride a breaker koown as "The Tube," beachfront restaurants

and bars were swept away.

## Danger beetle sneaks in

A highly destructive pest of commercial timber woodlands has been imported into Britain using deception. Oliver Tickell reports on a beetle's threat to our forestry plantations.

A chance inspection at Dover docks has led to the discovery of Britain's worst ever infestation of spruce bark beetles.

"This is more than enough to start an outbreak in our woodlands," said Roddy Burgess, head of the Forestry Commission's plant health division.

The commission got on the beetle trail when inspecting a 20-tonne shipment of wood from the Czech Republic. The wood concealed within the packs still had its bark on and was riddled with spruce bark beetles. The inspector noticed the rough-sawn wood had been misdeclared to customs as "planed timber", thus escaping the usual plant health inspection, as spruce

bark beetles live ooty uoder the bark, not in the wood. The commission then traced five similar shipments

to the West London Timber Company's yard io Woking. Surrey. On removing a piece of hark at random, it found 19 spruce bark beetles. Mr Burgess said: "This is

a straight case of deception. The timber was deliberately assembled so as to conceal the borrors inside ... It was only through sheer luck that this came to light."

The beetle is a major cause of tree death in Continental Europe, though British forests have so far escaped its ravages. But in August the Forestry Commission found beetles near British-grown logs at a paper mill in north Wales, suggesting that they might have established a British colony. Mr Burgess says it is unlikely that the north Wales and Woking incidents are connected.

The commission is now inspecting all timber imports from the Czech Republic and is installing beetle traps, using a powerful sex hormone attractant, in the Woking area to see whether any beetles have escaped.



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## Low-voltage tour plugs into Pakistan's gloomy mood

The Queen has used her visit to Pakistan to underline the links that exist with Britain. But wili Britain continue to use to its diplomatic weight to push for a solution to the problem of Kashmir?

At the press conference in Islamabad to announce the details of the state visit to Pakistan, a local journalist suggested that the Queeo might like to apologise for "a hundred years of British misrule". If the royal party scrutinise the Pakistani press, they will be gratified to find that this proposal has been treated with coolempt.

An incandescent letter in the daily Dawn demands whether the Queen should apologise for "bequeathing to us, I: the most distinguished civil service in the world; 2: irrigation and railway networks which were the envy of the world; 3: the rule of law..." An essay in the same paper anatomises the long falling off of Pakistan since the Queen's last visit, and quotes Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, praising the "genius" of the "Britishers".

In The News, another correspondent writes that "I am glad to hear that Her Majesty will not visit Swat" [where in 1961 she was the guest of the Wali of Swat]. "Swat's condition has become deplorable. Whoever comes to the place leaves feeling completely disgusted." It remains only for someone to write a column proposing that Pakistan should apologise to the Queen for making such a bash of things.

A lot of water has flown down the Indus since 1961. When the beautiful young queen glided through Karachi, standing in the back of a gleaming white Cadillac, President Ayub Khan, Pakistan's first military dictator, at her side, the streets were heaving with well-wishers. Today, her gloved, waving hand was glimpsed through the tinted glass of a Range Rover by the massed students of Karachi Public School, the hrass band of Habib Public School, playing For "She's a Jolly Good Fellow" with more enthusiasm than precision, the Police Band ("Colonel Bogey") and small knots of idlers, drawn by the noise. Anglo-Pakistani intimacy persists, indeed has grown stronger (every second person you meet here has lived in Britain), but, as elsewhere, the monarchy has lost voltage.

During her visit, the Queen has watched Pakistan play South Africa at cricket - the



free entry to the ground in her honour unfortunately ended in a baton charge and tear gas - taken delivery of a gaudily painted model truck and an equally gaudy bedspread, and been invested by President Farook Leghari with Pakistan's highest award. She, in turn, invested the President with the Order of the Bath, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with the Order of St Michael and St George. Benazir Bhutto,

BY PETER

**POPHAM** 

by contrast, got nothing hut a handshake

and a particularly warm smile. It was Ms

Bhutto who last year, while still prime min-

ister, invited the Queen to Pakistan. Since

then, however, she has been deposed for

misgovernment, lost an election by a land-

slide, and had bank accounts in Switzer-

land frozen on suspicion that they contain

funds looted from the nation. Her ap-

pearance at the banquet to welcome the

Queen - and her announcement the same

day that she will sue her chief accuser, Sen-

ator Saifu Rehman, in a foreign court - in-

dicate that she plans to stand and fight.

The Queen used the occasion of her

speech before both houses of the Nation-

al Assembly Islamabad on Wednesday to

scold Pakistan and India for their failure

to get along. "We all know ... that animosity

retards development, that development re-

quires trust, that lack of trust closes off op-

portunities." she said. "Unfortunately,

Asia \_ There are few things that would do more to unleash the regioo's potential than the lifting of the barriers between its two largest nations." The word Kashmir did not figure in her

speech - which surprised some here by its overtly political character - but in an obvious reference to the 50-year-old problem and the recent decision by the two nations to resume occotiations, she said; "It brings the friends of both countries only pleasure to see the commitment both have made this year to solve contentious issues through talks. Britain, as a friend of both, can only urge a new spirit of openness and understanding.

The hig question in both countries surrounding the state visit is whether Britain has more on its mind than merely "urging". Last month in New York, the Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral believed he had secured, for the first time, United States consent to the notion that the Kashmir problem should be solved bilaterally. India has long been wary of what it regards as the Labour Party's propensity to side with Pakistan over Kashmir, conversely, Pakistan clearly hopes that the new Labour government will move off the fence in its direction. The continuing exchanges of fire across Kashmir's "Line of Control", which last week claimed 47 lives, could act as a goad for it to do so.

However, the British government's offer to use its "good offices" to resolve the dispute, made by Derek Patchett, minister in the Foreign Office, during a visit to the region in the spring, was turned down very flat by India. It is doubtful the Govemment will risk the good vibrations of a state visit to push the idea any harder.



Royal progress: The Queen meeting war hero Ali Haider Banghash, 80, in Islamabad this week. Top left, crowds during the glittering 1961 tour Photographs: lan Jones/Hulton Getty

#### 'Britannia' floats into future controversy

Three weeks ago-The Independent revealed that royal yacht Britannia would not be refurbished or replaced Yesterday, the was confirmed official by the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, But there is lingering unease over the ship's future.

It is not the fact so much that Britainia will be the last royal yacht that concerns the Royal Family, they have accepted that for a while. But, according to senior officials, there is apprehension that this once-proud symbol of the monarchy could end up as a rusting museum or being hired out for parties.

The Government is adamant that it will not spend £60-80m of public money on a new yacht. Nor going in a partnership with private enterprise.

Instead, the Ministry of Defence is looking at options to use her for a range of services including corporate hospitality, a trade centre, and a floating museum at venues from her Clydeside birthplace to the millennium festival site at Greenwich in London.

The MoD is keen to stress that it has tightly vetted applications to prevent Britannia turning into a gin palace or a floating casino.

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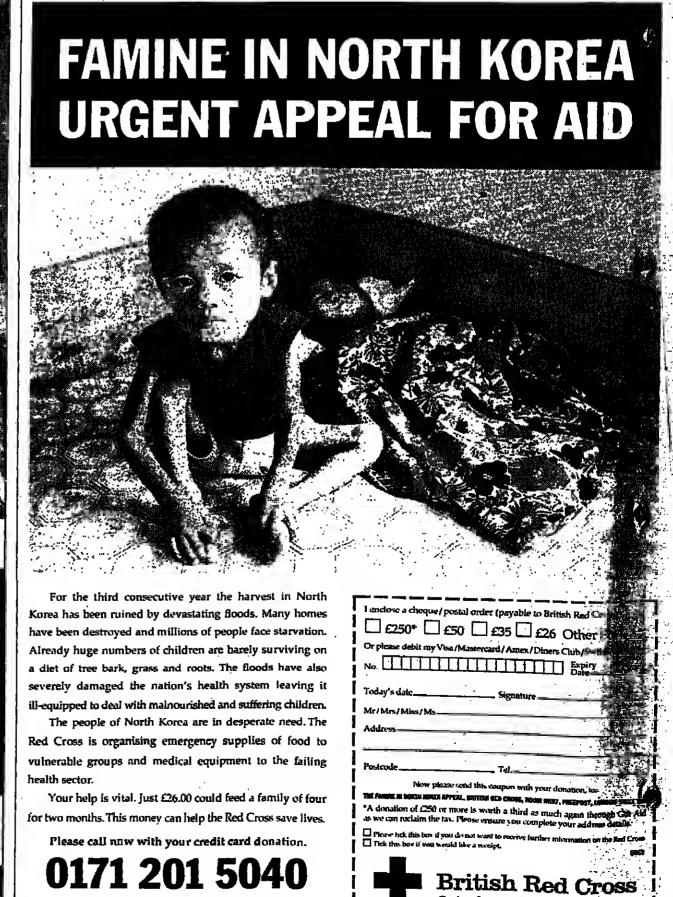
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But Buckingham Palace sources point out that the good intentions of this government may not guard against indignities in the future. They also say it will. be impossible to maintain the yacht in its pristine condition without a lot of





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Caring for people in crisis

## Bumper harvest puts fair wind in the sails of port

Port producers in Portugal's Douro valley are smiling with relief at the prospect of a good vintage, which ends in the next few days. While Spanish sherry flounders, port is **Bedding its fusty image** to win new enthusiasts. Elizabeth Nash treads the grapes to investigate a

success story.

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Some 35 of us stood in a vast granite tank, thigh deep in pungent purple glop, rhythmically stamping the day's cut of grapes into a spongy fluid that oozed between our toes and clung to our limbs like primeval

Timing is vital for making port. You have less than 48 hours before the fermenting grape juice hits its optimum balance between alcohol and sugar, when you add brandy to stop e process, and settle the new port in vats. In that time the maximum colour and texture characteristic of Portugal's best known export must be extracted from the skins. And science has come up with no better method than the pressure of the human foot.

Treading is still the best way of crushing the grapes while leaving the pips undamaged. It mixes up the skins with the juice and the body heat speeds the fermentation process," says Dominic Symington, sales director of his family's empire. that includes Graham's, Dow's and Warre's port. Only two ramily firms remain in a trade founded by 19th century British merchants, now dominated by multinational conglomerates. For top quality vintage port, there is no substitute for treading."

Vesuvio estate, at the eastern end of the Douro more than 100 miles up river from Porto, is the jewel in the Symingtons' crown, dedicated to the production of vintage port, which ms a fraction of the region's output. The vines are perched on steep ravines of slatey soil that you would think too barren to support a blade of grass. at conditions bere are perfect or port grapes.

"We are sheltered by mountains from the westerly winds and rain, so have bot dry summers that ripen the grapes and frosty winters that kill off diseases. The stony soil produces high sugar content and tough



Sold down the river: Traditions such as ferrying port barrels have given way to a buoyant industry that has survived the Nineties recession

Photograph: Robert Harding Picture Library

early beatwave followed by frosts threatened disaster, but a fine late August has saved this year's vintage.

The sun beats down on a gang of pickers moving along vines laden with fruit. Some have been coming for years to Vesuvio every autumn for the three-week vintage, from a village down the valley. The women cut the bunches and drop them into skips which the men load on to a truck. Amid murmured conversation and occasional gentle singing, the pace seems leisurely. A golden eagle wheels and wheels high in the still air, before heading off in slow motion to the mountains of Spain.

But the women's clippers move swiftly, and they fill their buckets in a blink. The men balance the heavy skips with a makeshift strap and a fibrous

skins," Mr Symington says. An roll to protect their shoulders. They work from dawn to 6pm, stopping for breakfast and lunch. Then they tread from 8pm to 11pm. Sometimes they will be roused from their dormitories on the early 19th century estate to tread through the

> By the time we clambered into the fragrant coze to join them, they had been at it for three bours, regimented by a gang leader shouting out the n as if orchestrating oarsmen in a trireme. Those on the end tapped advancing knees with a stick to keep the lines straight as they moved evenly across the tank or "lagar". Faces were weary by now, weatherbeaten compared to their creamy bare legs.

Only in the last bour - of "liberdade", or freedom - did the treaders break ranks to plunge and dance at will. I was

taken into a lively churning twostep. The accordionist who traditionally provides the accompaniment had overslept and missed the truck rounding up the gang from their village, so we clapped and sang instead. In the old days the men (women used never to tread) were kept on their feet by copious supplies of alcohol. Today they are offered cups of grape-

juice and cigarettes. Vesuvio, like every port estate or "quinta", is limited to a strict quota it may produce, an for every one of the 120m botties Portugal sells each year, the equivalent of three must be kept in reserve. Governmentbacked regulatory bodies rein back any temptation to overproduce, so demand constantly outstrips supply, keeping prices and quality high.

Port producers learned the lesson of Spanish sherry, whose

overproduction prompted a catastrophic downward spiral of prices and quality. They realised that long-term prosperity lay in meticulous control of output year by year.

Next spring, barrels of this year's vintage will be taken to the ancient lodges in Porto's southern quarter of Vila Nova de Gaia, no longer by special boats piloted down river, but by

lorry. Porto may seem trapped in the last century, with its crumbling waterfront slums and its art-nouveau coffee houses that would make Charles Rennie Macintosh weep for joy, but the wine to which it gave its name is forg-

ing ahead to the millennium. "Business is going very well at the moment. We're going through a very successful peri-

od," Dominic Symington says. Breaking the stereotypes of goury colonels and fusry Oxbridge colleges, nearly half Britain's port drinkers arc under 44, and 47 per cent are women, he says. France remains the mass market for cheap port drunk chilled as an aperitif, but the big money is with the vintage quality sold overwhelmingly in Britain

and increasingly in the US. Port weathered the long Nineues recession with scarcely a blip - sales suffered more in the swinging Sixtics - and economic revival is expected to encourage prosperous youngsters to pay the high price for the good stuff. The grape treaders of Vesuvio are likely to be plying their ancient trade for some years to come.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

## How to make it in a traditional, male world

Sophia Bergqvist was only 28 when she gave up a flourishing career as a business consultant in London to run a modest port-producing estate in Pinhao, in the Douro valley, that had been in ber family for decades. The vineyard, Quinta de

la Rosa, had been in the family since the beginning of the century, but went bankrupt in the Thirties. We continued to produce grapes, but sold them to the big port shippers. But in 1987 new rules were introduced which meant that a small estate like ours did not have to have a base in Vila Nova de Gaia, in Porto, so we decided to go it alone, growing and making our own port with our own label, like bordeaux from a French chateau. It was the fulfilment of a family dream."

Now 37 and with three small children, Sophia grins when she recalls those early days in 1988, as an Englishwoman with uncertain command of Portuguese, entering an overwhelmingly maledominated world of grand port dynasties. "I was terribly naive, I don't know how I bad the guts."

But Sophia insists that being young and a woman works in her favour. "Port does appeal to younger people. I want to sweep away the dim gouty image and show that port has many faces." An initial capital injection

was provided by the sale of her father's successful pulp factory, and Portugal's entry into the European Community in 1986 opened the door to a raft of vital subsidies. The family invested £200,000 in gleaming new wine-making equipment and bought up steep terraces of land behind their eighteenth century house on the banks of the Douro to plant new vines.

father never dreamed he'd be able even to keep La Rosa in the family, let alone run it at a profit. Our goal was to stop losing money so that we could keep the estate in the family without it being a constant drain on our resources. It took eight years before we could even think of making a profit."

But apart from 1993 ("which was disastrous for everyone"), Quinta de a Rosa has survived and flourished amid the buoyancy of the port sector as a whole. Sophia's brother Philip, 35, recently gave up his British management job to devote himself full-time to the business; her sister Juliet has just started a wine course in the United

Last year they produced 12,000 cases of port - a drop in the vat for the big players. But Sophia, who made successful pitches to the likes of Pont de la Tour and Quaglino's, is confident. "We're getting there," she says.

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## At the court of the once and future king

Snoo Wilson's 'HRH' catches up with Edward and Mrs Simpson in the Bahamas in the 1940s. A two-hander for Corin Redgrave and Amanda Donohoe, it takes up the tale where 'Always', the musical, all too suddenly left off.

The ex-king is dead, long live the ex-king! We've hardly drawn breath since conducting the funeral rites over Always and now here are the Duke of Windsor and Mrs Simpson experiencing a speedy theatrical resurrection in Snoo Wilson's HRH. This two-hander is an altogether more astringent and blackly stylish piece of work than that grovelling musical which, conveniently amnesiae about the Duke's Führer-fancying and hopes of making a crowned comeback in a Nazi Britain, despatched the lovebirds to a

#### BY PAUL **TAYLOR**

married future of unclouded happiness. HRH puts the record straight on that little famasy. We meet up with the

Windsors in 1943, when the Duke was Governor General of the Bahamas. In the diplomatic pecking order, this is Siberia with add-on humidity. How it rankles with them, though precisely what higher posting a wartime government could have given an ex-king with pro-Hider sympathies is hard to say. The Bahamas gig affords them lots of leisure. though, to pick at the scab of a sevenyear marriage for which he had sacrificed a throne and she had, to all intents and purposes, sacrificed the right ever to divorce again.

The play is alive to the grotesque comedv of the situation (the little pornonursery games the fretful, slighted couple play. like squirreling Queen Mary's jewels in a place that would faze the most hardened Customs official). But it also shows that the undivine duo are in what might be called a tragic Windsor-knot.

Distracting himself from the depths he's too frightened to face by playing George Formby tunes on his banjo, Corin Rederave's damaged silly-ass Duke is like the little boy the couple never had.

Amanda Donohoe's Duchess pulling her features into various DIY facelift poses and employing diphthongs that make Loyd Grossman sound like Dolly Parton - doesn't look too sad at having only one haby around the house. Earlier this season, there was a show called Women on the Verge of HRT; the Duchess thought she was a woman on the verge of HRH. But, as more recent history demonstrates, the Palace likes to be sparing where those three letters are concerned. The petty snobbery of the Duchess is not overlooked here, but the play also brings bome bow her position as King-unmaker exposed her to being humiliated by yobs. You have only to recall the mob ugliness that erupted at the mere mention of Camilla Parker Bowles during that TV debute on the future of the monarchy to appreciate the dangers she must have faced.

The Duke's dim-wit dealings with shady businessmen in the Bahamas made those dangers worse. The play suggests that he colluded in a murder cover-up, causing an innocent man to be prosecuted so as to protect the real culprit, a property dealer who had helped him transfer huge amounts of currency to a Nazi-owned bank in Mexico. Quids in, then (or rather dollars), in the event of a German victory.

Given that the piece is a two-bander, this quite complicated story has to be relayed through references to a lot of offstage characters, which is a drawback. In Simon Callow's enjoyable production, the psychological advances of the narrow and intense focus on the couple aren't exploited as well as they were when an earlier version of HRH was mounted at Theatre Clwyd. Mold. three years ago. There, with the pair marooned on a mirrored disk in the middle of the audience. you got a whiff of a claustrophobic Sartrean hell. Here, the set is standardissue colonial suitable for Maughum or Coward. This funny, elegandy baleful play needs something more abstract.

Playhouse Theatre, London WC2 (0171-839 4401). Booking to 22 Nov



#### THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

## Divided by a common understanding

A shocking statistic: over 1,200 Irish pubs have opened across Europe in the last four years, from Barcelona to Berlin. The reason it's shocking is that, as Gerry Anderson pointed out last week in Gerry's Bar (R4, Fri). "the Irish puh", with its sawdust on the floor and strong men boiling over with animal spirits, is a fantasy.

Irishness itself is problematic - national identity is rarely simple, but Ireland's is more hedged about with traps and qualifications than most. Gerry's Bar is one of two series concerned with those difficulties. The other is North and South (R4, Wed), in which the novelist Colm Toibin is trekking along and around the Irish border. The four programmes were recorded in the winter of 1995/6, shortly before the Canary Wharf bomh ended the peace process; and Toibin was largely concerned with tracing the effects of peace, and the after-effects of conflict. So the programmes are full of hopeful images of the detritus of war: border posts torn down, barracks left empty, roads reopened, communities meeting one another after 20 years' separation. The optimism sometimes makes you wince (if not as often as the corny Oirish folk soundtrack does), and it would be nice to have some footnotes on what's going on now, in the second, less cheerful ceasefire; have the troops returned? Are the communities estranged again?

Borders are always a temptation to writers, zones full of resonance and metaphorical possibility, and Toibin is no ascetic. But beneath the poetic manner, the series has a hard core of fact - everything is observed, little is asserted - and a tough-minded refusal to let anyone claim the moral high ground True, there is a coustage sense of the irrationality of the ragged line between North and South, which you could take to be evidence of Republican sympathies. But in this week's second programme, he consciously disdained any glamorising of the Republican tradition, quoting from Yeats: "We have fed our hearts on fantasy, and our heart's grown brutal on the fare." (That could also be the motto for The Playboy of the Western World, this week's Monday Play on Radio 4, the tale of a self-proclaimed murderer all but worshipped for his crime: Peter Kavanagh's production rightly emphasised the darkness of the underlying emotion over the comical-absurdity of the situation.)

The outward bluntness of Gerry Anderson's delivery can ouflages an underlying hazy idealism. I'm one of Anderson's admirers, but still agnostic about his scripted talks - his natural twinkle sounds too studied. His habitual "We're all mad here" view of Ireland seems clumsy beside Toibin's grimmer appreciation of insanity, too; it doesn't leave much room for nuance. Yesterday's talk ended with him driving from the rustic paradise of Donegal back to Derry: the first thing he saw on arriving home was a news item about a young man hurt in a car crash, and stripped of wallet, watch and shoes by a moh, "Home, sweet home," Anderson concluded.

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It seemed an unimaginative contrast. Yet the first headline on the next news bulletin was about an Ulsterman who slit a boy's throat for wearing Celtic colours. Sometimes muance is a luxury we can do without.

## Dark, brutal passion - and not a poker in sight

DANCE

#### Edward II Birmingham Hippodrome

Bullet doesn't have to carry a "U" certificate - as Kenneth MacMillan was ever at pains to demonstrate - and in making a ballet of the torrid life and sticky end of Edward II, David Bintley sel out to create a dark, flavoursome, sugar-free enterrainment. It was made in 1995 for Stuttgart Ballet, and with the help of two principals from that production (Sabrina Lenzi and the excellent Wolfgang Stollwitzer). Bintley has now re-Ballet, who gave its British premiere on Thursday.

Bintley's gift for storytelling is not infallible (remember Cyrano? I hut in Edward II the narracing strings and angry drums to the chase, with none of the expository lungueurs that so sti-



vived it for Birmingham Royal Oliver Hindle as the Grim Reaper in a stylish 'Edward II'

who and what they are up to. The curtain rises on a magnificent funeral corrège, looming pillars, cowled figures and rative pace and John McCabe's dense fog cerily lit by Peter Mumford's expressive lighting. zip along so that we can cut right. The monks file off, Edward is crowned and immediately resumes his exhitarating tours en the MacMillan's Manerling. With- Tuir with the mercurial Piers in Itt minutes we know who's Gaveston (Andrew Murphy).

His wife is less than thrilled and soon embarks on some steamy pair work of her own with Joseph Cipolla's king-making Mortimer, who is quite elearly A Bad Thing. He and his Barons initiate a civil war in their quest for more power and dominate the stage in testosterone-rich ensembles worthy of Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Amanda Donohoe as Mrs Simpson, the not-so-gay divorcee

The historical narrative is intercut with the 14th-century morality tale Roman de Fanvel. in which a donkey is made king. This is told by a motley crew, including a Fool who sports a large foam-rubber creetion that will be familiar to anyone who has ever tried to construct a giraffe with pink modelling halloons.

tv Jasper Conran, Sabrina Lenza gets to model a succession of battalions of blood-thirsty ravishing hias-cut devore velvet Barons. It's a hrutal hallet: Iscreations that had me dribbling into my programme. Never cellent Marion Tait I, the nurse mind T-shirts: this ballet could take merchandising into an entirely different league. The ladies of the court wear plain black gowns crowned by a funtastical array of medieval funeral millinery ranging from wimples to distended mortar-boards.

Not all of Conran's costumes are this successful. The Barons have more studded leather codpieces than you can shake a stick at - if that's your idea of a good time. This heavy emphasis on leathers is reminiscent of the RSC in its late-Seventies hiker

Much of the ballet's visual impact is thanks to Peter J Davison's mechanistically medieval sets. A high, wide window at the back slides open like a hangar door - a clever design that enlarges still further the Hippudrome's handsome stage. The

These costumes are designed opening reveals coronations. ahella slaps her nurse (the exspits in Gaveston's face, Gaveston is anally raped by the Barons and the King is peed on by his guards before he endures the final, fatal humiliation, His assassin, Lightborne (Tony Norman Wright), is a skinhead who dances a strangely gentle pas de deux with his victim before a portcullis suddenly falls and a glowing brazier is wheeled on. Lightborne tenderly places a black bag over the King's head before taking care-

> ful, and terrible, aim. Family entertainment it ain't. But it's a strong tale, fold with conviction, danced with passion and staged with the greatest possible style. Definitely worth shelling out for a habysitter. To Tites (booking: 0121-622 7486); then on your

THE FILM

Nil by Mouth

Actor Gary Oldman's makes his debut as

writer and director with a fierce and fatat-

istic family drama set on a run-down south

London housing estate, starring Ray Win-

stone as a violent minur villain married to

Adam Mars-Jones worried about the film's

balance of sympathies but praised it for earn-

ing "the great, if back-handed, compliment

of being powerful enough to argue with".

"A story that could easily have got out of hand. An honourable film, as well as a sen-

sationatione," cried The Grandian, "Startling

power and compassion," nodded The Times.

There's no sermonising or sentimentalis-

ing ... Don't miss it." marvelled Time Out.

Harrowingly brilliant performances ... it's

gruelling hut compulsive. Steel yourself, hut

see it," urged the Telegraph. "I can't fill the

vacuum with the slightest sympathy. Nil by

mouth maybe, everything by foul mouth."

snorted the Standard, "Full of the sort of per-

ple you would move to the country to avoid."

Cert 18, 120 mins, on general release

Kathy Burke.

Louise Levene

#### In the Eye on Monday: Dominic Dromgoole pays tribute to P.o. MacGregor, author of 'Snalle in the Grass' and a playwinght who sadly found his voice all too late.

Plus Pobert Hanks on Evans v Greening & Ball, or the breakfasttime battle for listeners between Virgin and Radio I



#### THE WEEK IN REVIEW DAVID BENEDICT THE BALLET

#### Cinderella

Adventures in Motion Pictures present Prokoliev's ballet with Sarah Wildor and ex-Royal Ballet star Adam Cooper, directed and choreographed by Matthew Bourne. Lez Brotherston designs.

Piccadilly Theatre, London WI (0171-369 1734) to Jan 10.

Long-time Bourne fan Louise Levene was disappointed. "Neither as dramatic nor as funny as most of his earlier work." "[Bourne] has one of the most dazzling theatrical imaginations in the hasiness ... the one thing that's frustratingly lacking in the production is dance." agreed The Guardian, "As good as the notorious Swan Lake? No ... It will make a much better video than stage show." declared the Telegraph. "Lynn Seymour's hilariously tipsy stepmother totters like a parndy of Patti LuPone in Sunset Boulevard ... deserves to he a popular success," smiled the Mail. "Unconvincing," sighed the FT. "A winning formula ... The entire cast is first-rate," sang The Times, "Complexity, subtlety and surprises," cheered the Standard.

Rehearsals were decimated by ill-health. It will undoubtedly deepen and strengthen.

#### THE TV SERIES

#### A Dance to the Music of Time

Anthony Powell's 12-volume novel adapted by Hugh Whitemore into four two hour TV films (at a cost of £10m) with a Rolls-Royce cast led by Simon Russell Beale with Sir John Gielgud, Miranda Richardson and Alan Bennett plus all the usual suspects. Thursdays, 9pm, Charviel 4.

Thomas Sutcliffe felt "the effect is rather like attending a reunion party at which you have no share in the common history .. everyone around you mars with laughter, leaving you mildly haffled (and mildly bored)". "A quickstep to the music of time which tramples not only on credibility but on humour." frowned the New Statesman. \*Like walking into a Brideshead Revisited theme park - only less convincing," grumhled The Times. 'An excellent cast cannot make up for the lack of substance," yawned the Mail. "Perfectly faithful, which is more than you can say for most of the characters." declared The Guardian, "After two hours of this luscious production, I stumbled. blinking, back into the barsh reality of today." gloried the Telegraph.

The production values are high and the acting excellent but it's a compression too far.



Already strewn with awards for acting and direction.

shuddered the Mail.



#### A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

Something's rotten in the state of theatre, at least according to The Stage, which this week predicts a spate of financial crises, a possible merger in Liverpool, possible closures elsewhere. Duncan Weldon, director of Chichester Festival Theatre, wants to shut up shop for half the year, with dark hints of closing altogether if more cash can't be found.

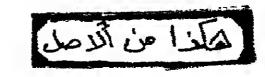
Talking to Weldon, I found him extremely downbeat, not just about Chichester but about the future of theatre in general. Young people, he says, are simply not going to the theatre. "I don't think it's that they can't afford it: they can afford to huy CDs. They just have other interests. We've got a serious diness in the theatre, and I don't know bow you solve it." Apocalyptic words. But Weldon is not alone in prophesying the worst. Jude Kelly, director of West Yorkshire Playhouse, agrees that, for many in their late teens and early twenties, theatre simply isn't on the agenda: "It isn't rock 'n' roll."

But why? No real analysis has been done. How does one reconcile Weldon's diagnosis of an "illness in the theatre" with the huge numbers of youngsters going to Shopping and Fucking and Popcom in the West End, or the 88 per cent attendances, in all weathers, at Shakespeare's Globe. True, Mark Ravenhill's and Ben Elton's plays were soon seen as trendy, while the Globe remains a fascinating novelty. But there is another factor. Weldon is wrong, I believe, in excluding price from his analysis. I believe it weighs heavily with young people contemplating a night out. The Globe had standing and sitting at £5. And, when the BAC in south London introduced "pay what you can" nights, they too rapidly sold out. If West End producers really are serious about bringing in a new, younger audience, why don't they experiment by offering a good range of tickets at the same price as cinema seats, and maybe even free admission on Mondays, when theatres can be all too dismally empty?

What a pity the ruling council of the Royal Academy had to signal the demise of its mercurial exhibitions secretary, Norman Rosenthal. Censuring him for recent remarks they found "unacceptable" isn't too worrying. But what about that vote of confidence? As football managers down the ages. Michael Foot and various other victims of a vote of confidence by their employers or colleagues could tell him, Norman's fate is now well and truly sealed.



Culture secretary Chris Smith tells Music Week magazine what a fan he is of all the popular beat combos: "I enjoy listening to a Pulp tape almost as much as I enjoy listening to a Mahler symphony." But asked if he has been to any gigs lately, he replies: "Not since I took over responsibility for the music industry, but that's partly because I haven't had any invitations. If anyone wants to invite me to things. I would be keen to go." There is another alternative, Chris, ground-hreakingly radical as it must appear to anyone in the House of Commons. But one can always indulge one's passions by buying a ticket.



## Delight and disaster in an African diary

The wildlife of Africa still has the power to hold its human observers in thrall, but, says Rory Bremner, who has pen visiting conservation projects in Tanzania and Kenya, ill-conceived and disconnected foreign aid projects threaten animals and human beings alike by causing avoidable ecological breakdown

As I left home again for Africa last month, my thoughts were of England. The country shifting beneath my feet, old certainties (the monarcby, the Union) everywhere called into question, me starting to get my head round my next set of programmes for Channel 4, and my racehorse (or the leg of him I own) apparently now so lazy that Fr was having Sky TV plumbed into his stable so he could watch the Ryder Cup, with a direct line to the bookies should he fanry a few bob on Rocca to beat Tiger Woods in the singles.

Such thoughts are left far behind as our Piper Aztec touches down on a dusty terracotta landing-strip in Southern Tanzania and Africa wraps us once again in its sweet, dry heat - and a cloud of dust.

It's a break from home; but it's also a mission, In a way. For the second time this year, I'm visiting projects supported by the wildlife conservation charity lusk litust, whose involvement ranges from funding equipment and assisting African community projects to aiding the relocation of rhiand other endangered species to Ignservancies across Kenya.

I first encountered wildlife during the 1995 England Cricket Tour to South Africa - not amongst the players, but many miles away in the game reserves of Londolozi and Phinda Nyala. There, at dusk one evening. time stood still as we waited silently. aware that we were not alone. In a thicket in front of us, the crackling of twigs betraved the presence of an animal. After what seemed like an eternity, the branches parted and a lone elephant emerged and swayed sadly and silently on its way, utterly impervious to our presence. As we moved off tears were streaming down my cheeks.

Guides will tell you that these immense Leatures have a deep and compassionate gentleness. They will return many months later to the spot where a relative bas died, flicking tenderly at the bones as if trying to nudge it back to life. A slightly longer tale tells of a drunk man falling into an alcoholic slumber and awaking to find himself covered in twigs, having been gently "buried" by an

elephant. Since that first experience, my curiosity about the animals and the people has become passion-Le, and I've come to love the place. Days spent driving humpily across plants and dusty paths in a Land

Rover, each bend promising an encounter with giraffe, impala, elephant or zebra; the seemingly inevitable hour lying awake in the middle of every night, dry-mouthed, heart pounding, listening to lion or hyena in the distance, both hoping and fearing they might come closer; the sheer weight of that night sky, heavy with a thousand stars and deafeningly silent except for a slap of fish or a flutter of hirdwing breaking the still river's surface, or a single distant birdcry: the sound of fish-eagles and cicadas in the shimmering heat of an African af-

Flying between Tanzania and Kenya from the Serengeti to the Mara. say - is a hassle. You have to fly to a border point and clear customs crossing into Kenya to clear customs again and head back into the hush. Such travel may broaden the mind; it certainly lengthens the queues.

As we arrive at Kilimanjaro airport there are two other planes on the tarmac. Amongst the five people boarding the Air Tanzania jet is one white man. Tall, with a blond mane and a shambling gait. Bet it's someone I know, I joke to myself. As he

half-turns to climb the steps I see his face. Bloody heli, it's Martin Clunes. For some reason I keep bumping into him in Dean Street, in Soho, but Kilimanjaro airport on a quiet Sunday morning is stretching coincidence a little further. As it happens he's been filming the story of Nina the elephant, relocated through the auspices of the Born Free Foundation from a lonely zoo life to Mkomazi reserve.

Each time I return I learn more about the secret life of animals and plants: how the whistling thorn is inhabited by ants who emerge if the tree is being eaten to bite the predator, how other acacias first grew thorns to deter giraffe from eating them, and now produce an unpalatable tannin if a thick-tongued animal begins to munch away; not only that - this reaction is communicated to all other trees in the surrounding area, forcing the predator to move off to another part of the bush.

One piece of bush lore suggests that to keep baboons ont of your camp, you should place a plastic snake in a hag near where they play: their curiosity will thus be rewarded with a nasty shock.

A friend tried this at his camp in the Tsavo park in Kenya and found the bag attracted the attentions of a vervet monkey, who opened it, looked inside and promptfainted. Clambering back onto its feet, it had another look - and promptly faint-

The story reminded me of the tale of Falklands penguins, who were so tascinated by aircraft during the war that they would longingly watch the planes as they flew directly over their heads, causing the unfortunate creatures to topple straight over backwards with a slusby thud. Unable to right themselves ("aw, bloody, hell, I've gone again ..."), they would have to wait for an army patrol whose job it was to return penguins to the upright position.

The very first morning in Tanzania presents a rare sighting. Drawn by a sudden cloud of dust in the distance, we find a herd of buffalo holding two lionesses at bay. As we watch a buffalo is brought down. To all intents and purposes it's dead meat. But no. Mounting a final show of defiance, the buffalo charge the lions again, causing them to retreat. Amazingly, after half a minute of this stand-off, the stricken buffalo clambers to its feet and rejoins the herd. Lions paddyfield development at Madibira,



The writer with Tana the cheater in Kenya

0 Buffalo 1, and as John Motson might say, no, as he undoubtedly would say, you don't see that very often, Desmond. The lionesses wander off, and from a little further away we see three small creatures bound towards them: cubs, stumbly-pawed, tumbling and frolicking before nestling against their mothers in the shade.

There is no doubt that camping out in the bush attracts a particular type of person. Overflying Ruaha in the Tusk plane, looking for poachers, we spotted a Landrover and tent; on landing at dusk, we found a young white couple with two very small kids sitting quite happily by their tent in the darkness, listening for the leopard prowling around a hundred yards away. No minibar, no room service, no executive trouser-press, nothing. Taki

Amongst these bush people are wildlife film-maker Simon Trevor and sculptor Robert Glen, whose magnificent installation of mustangs dominates the a plaza in Dallas. Glen lives in a tent a few hundred yards from the tent of his pupil and partner, artist Susan Stolberger, and 30 minutes drive into the bush from the near- Madibira rice field project.



When foreign aid goes wrong: helpless fish, dead and dying, below Huffman's bridge, Ruaha National Park, Tanzania

Photograph: Rory Bernner

est camp. There is a small ranger post which they fund a mile or so away, but apart from that, nothing beside remains.

As the stars come out on the first night in camp, to be joined by a glorious rising full moon, we listen to stories of those who live here. Dismissive of the "two-year wonders" who come to Dar es Salaam, work for a western company and return home having learnt little and understood less, Geoffrey Fox is a 38-year wonder with a lodge camp in Ruaba National Park. He will tell you about tea-growing and bush lore, the old days and the new challenges. And still, as he did on our first morning, walk slap into an elephant while walking sleepily to hreakfast, blinded by the low ear-

This year his story is both a tragedy and

The Ruaha river, the life-blood of Southern Tanzania, is drying up in the middle of the dry season-for the fourth year running (or indeed not running). And, what's more, it's happening a month earlier every year.

Poor rains are partly to blame, but the most threatening cause lies upriver, where foreign-aid money is following up the creation of two buge rice-field developments in the Ruaha's catchment area with a third based on a feasibility pro-

> The river below - and the wildlife living in the Ruaha National Park depend an a swamp in the river's catchment area. The swamp acts as a natural dam. In the rainy season it absorbs water like a sponge and helps prevent flooding; in the dry season it gradually releases it to prevent the river drying up.

ject done years ago.

As water is diverted for the rice field project, the swamp has dried out and become compacted by up to 1.5 million grazing cattle. The result is a natural catastrophe that has to be seen to be be-

lieved. Flash floods in rainy season and, last month, long before the next rains are due; the pitiful sight of hippo and crocodiles crowded in stagnant pools, while a few yards upstream hundreds of dead fish lie rotting on the surface. Countless others fight vainly for air, flapping around, open-mouthed and upside-down.

These - imagine it - were the pools where the Fox children would fish 20 years ago, catching tiger-fish weighing up to 15 pounds, retrieved by whichever brother's turn it was (usually the youngest) to hrave

The site is no stranger to tragedy: in the mid-50s a timber merchant called Carl Hussman built a bridge at the spot and was so pleased with the result that he immediately drove off the side of it and drowned. His death is remembered sadly by the locals, rather less so by the crocodiles to whose diet he made a welcome addition. (Unlike Hussman, they often live beyond

Now the stinking pool is a sight that should shame those responsible for the

irony that may yet save the river and its ecosystem; For downstream are the Mtera and Kidatu hydroelectric dams, which provide 80 per cent of Dar es Salaam's electricity. Already the power cuts have started in that city and huge generators have had to be bought.

Thus foreign aid money finances the rice paddy project upstream while crippling the (foreign aid financed) bydro project downstream. It is a crisis conservationists in Ru-

But there is a further twist, an economic aha are desperate to prevent, quite literally, come hell or high water.

> But the swamp tragedy is a metaphor for African politics: for everyone you meet who tells you one story, you will meet someone the next day who contradicts or ridicules it. In a continent whose main currency is rumour, your brain soon becomes saturated. What may be a flash flood of information and gossip at lower level soon dries to a trickle higher up as armies

of bureaucrats grind out their patch, leaving dust and confusion in their wake.

But this is Africa. Returning through the fumes and the bustle of Nairohi, I reflect on the contrasts and ironies that frustrate and bewitch me: hreathtaking beauty and pitiful squalor, Man and Nature, life and death. I know I'll be back. And as I observe Messrs Blair and Hague in their natural habitat, I'll think of snakes and haboons, lion and huffalo ... and Martin Clunes.



## A little late, but welcome to the modern world, Mr Hague



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Let's welcome the Tories to the modern world. They might not like it - "the world that is" as Michael Portillo so colourfully put it - but it seems to be the only one we have. It's where the votes, the problems, the political opportunities are. It is the same world-that-is to which Labour painfully had to reintroduce itself. There may be pockets of Surrey, Herts and Bucks or even function rooms in Blackpool that you can pretend are forever England, your England, but they are too small a political base for the Tories. If they are ever going to grow back to potency they needed to make a leap out of the ghettos of intolerance this week. And, Norman Tebbit notwithstanding, they just about did. This is good news for Britain: we need a plural system, and that means, we need

William Hague's speech yesterday was pretty potboiling stuff, addressed to the tribe rather than the country. Besides, the leader's speech was overshadowed by Michael Portillo's démarche on the conference fringe. He is too resourceful and ambitious a politician to have stayed away for long but the manner of his return was dramatic, Personal humiliation of the kind he suffered in the early hours of May 2nd is clearly good for the soul. He took centre stage with an extraordinary volte-face. The queen (Maggie and all her works) is dead. Long live the (liberal, tolerant, compassionate) king. Why, next he may be heard offering a prayer for Jacques Santer.

Though Norman Tebbit rarely shows much Christian charity, he would presumably allow that his prized (mono-) cultural inheritance includes the New Testament. One of its most teasing stories, to non-believers and believers alike, is that of the prodigal son. This week the Conservatives came back to the fold, and repented. There they had been for all those years, boozing with ideologues, stripping down to their economically liberal underwear. They were indeed crazy years. During them Lady Thatcher and John Major attempted to defend a Toryism that had become an unstable permissive in matters of business but morally censorious of choice in matters of sex, child-rearing and household formation. It was not the creed of modern Britons around them.

This week reality dawned - or at least glimmering of consistency. No one quite had the courage to point out that liberalising changes in attitude and social practice occurred while Mrs Thatcher was on watch, that she is "responsible" (in so far as politicians have anything to do with social change). But at least the Tories now



recognise what Michael Portillo coyly called the "new norms" are here to stay. Gays will not go back into the closet. Women will not be driven out of jobs nor will they relinquish their freedom to choose whether and with whom they

have children. William Hague came near to accepting that freedom is indivisible. If you value the freedom of consumers, of patients and parents, you must also prize - however much you might regret the consequences - their freedom to divorce or set up with a same-sex partner.

All this amounts to heroic redirection. Historically Conservatism prospered by resisting change, in postulating ideal types of behaviour. Often it was hypocrisy on stilts. Aristocrat Tories condemned in the working class behaviour they applauded in their drawing rooms. Tory MPs were often the last people to observe the precepts they tried to legislate for others. Lately, the Tories have made themselves into the party of an anachronistic definition of the family. This has meant they became social whingers, constantly complaining that people kept making choices they don't like. (These people of course included ministers, their ex-mistresses and prime minister's children, which made the Tory message all the more unintelligible.) William Hague himself still feels the need to bow his knee to the approved form of matrimony but, intellectually and politically, he sees how his party had driven up a cul-de-sac. It is now on its way hack down. And he (we assume) enjoyed some sex before marriage in Blackpool this week.

But this will be a slow and difficult political conversion. Listening to Mr Hague's speech was to hear the grating sound of a man trying to play two ends against the middle. This was a leader prepared only up to a point to beckon his people back to the middle ground - he certainly made free with the tribe's totems and tokens. So we had compassion and tolerance - code for welcoming gays - but also a paear of praise to the "traditional family". Mr Hague wants more Tory women MPs, but would not forego a gratuitous assault on a Labour minister, Harriet Harman, hased largely on her gender. Mr Hague lauds free trade but within a few sentences aligns himself with hard-line nationalism. the kind that wants protection. Mr Hague, in other words, has not yet entirely abandoned the shibboleths he needs to shed.

And yet the Conservatives deserve half a round of applause - by which we mean not the sound of one hand clapping, but two hands clapping, slowly. They really did advance this week. What next? Imagine a line-up at Brighton in 1998 of young men who had doffed their pinstripes and, some of them, come out; of sassy go-ahead career women ... That would start to look like a Tory party capable of giving New Labour a run for its money. We'd like to see it happen.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Greener than thou

Sir: It is good that the Foreign Office now treats impending climate change and sea-level rise seriously. ("The paradise isles on the edge of disaster", 10 October), after decades of indifference to global environmental crises, such as tropical deforestation, over-fishing and species extinction.

However, the UK is in danger of losing influence over other industrial nations as its pronouncements on their responsibility to cut greenhouse gas emissions take on an unattractive "holier than thou" tone. The exhortation of the Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett that Australia, Japan and the USA must agree tough reduction targets at the crucial climate change summit in Kyoto in eight weeks time may be right, but it would carry far more weight if the Government spent less time trumpeting its own (welcome) carbon dioxide reduction target of 20 per cent from 1990 levels by 2010 and started implementing domestic programmes to reach that target.

There are a number of mitiatives that must be undertaken in Britain, which would bring definite social and economic benefits, and yet none featured in either Labour's first Oueen's Speech or its first Budget.

Transport is responsible for over a fifth of carbon dioxide pollution, and emissions are rising rapidly as traffic levels soar. Why, then, no legislation along the lines of the Road Traffic Reduction Bill, drafted by Friends of the Earth, the Green Party and Plaid Cymru, and sponsored by Cynog Dafis MP? Why no tougher energy-efficiency standards, for buildings

as well as vehicles? A nationwide home energy conservation programme is an essential prerequisite for lowering carbon emissions. And it would help eradicate the scandal of fuel poverty in this country, suffered by 15 million people, prevent some 30,000 people from dying every year because they are cold and damp as their homes leak energy and waste warmth, while creating between 25,000 and 50,000 jobs. Why was the windfall tax not used to kickstart such invest-

The long-term funds for such a programme, for building up a modern public transport network and for developing clean renewable energy supplies such as offshore wind, wave and solar power, can easily be found. End company car, and free fuel and parking, subsidies worth £550m a year, along with the £1.5bn tax breaks given to oil companies annually to find more oil.

Above all, introduce a graduated carbon tax across the European Union so that the dirtiest fuels are taxed the most, and the cleanest the least, and commensurately reduce taxes on labour. Not only would carbon emissions fall, but so would the price of employment, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs across the EU.

Why also does the Treasury resist ending the farcical anomaly whereby energy-saving materials are VAT taxed at 17.5 per cent whereas energy use is taxed at 5 per cent?

Simply lecturing other nations about their obvious failings is no way to prepare for Kyoto. CHARLES SECRETT Director Friends of the Earth

London N1

Sir: Bill Quantrill (letter, 7 October) is right that a tropical timber boycott may not be the best choice for the environment and that we should try to ensure that timber comes from well-

managed sources. However there is still much forest management that fails to meet even the most basic environmental and social criteria. the Forest Stewardship Council now offers an international scheme for ensuring forest management meets high standards and provides an easily recognised tick-tree logo for the products. The FSC provides the perfect choice for people who want reassurance that they can buy wood products without contributing to the sort of shocking disasters that we can now observe in Indonesia. STEVE HOWARD Senior Forests Officer

WWF-UK Godalming, Surrey

#### Royal technophobia

Sir: On your centre pages (9 October) you publish a major article by Rupert Cornwell, a six-column cartoon and three trenchant letters all condemning the remarks of Norman Tebbit on the subject of Britain's multi-ethnicity. Well done!

Immediately above stands your leading article, in which you attack the Queen for inflexibility and a lack of "democratic understanding for what you describe as a self-deprecating aside admitting her resistance to information technology. I should have thought that

Her Majesty's extremely positive endorsement of the multiethnic, multi-faith character of this country - which, by happy coincidence was reported on the same day as Norman Tebbit's regrettable ontburst - demonstrates both her flexibility and ber responsiveness to the mood of modern society. I also believe that the Queen's views on the subject of race-relations are very much more interesting to most of her subjects than her views on information technol-

#### JENNY BANKS Birmingham

Sir: Your leader of 9 October is wrong in stating that Queen Mary never used a telephone. As she herself recorded, the King, in London, kept her, in Balmoral, fully informed by telephone about the government crisis of 1931. You also omitted to mention that the Princess Royal's comments about the use of computers in



The Australian kangaroo - culled by trained shooters to spare it a worse death

#### Kangaroo meat

Sir: In case your readers gain a false impression about the killing "Ostrich, kangaroo and other exotic meats off the menu" (9 Oc- er native species it sustains. tober) it is important to point out that the sale of kangaroo meat

schools were endorsed by none

not, as you suggest, run in the

Royal Family. Queen Victoria.

in contrast to her Prime Minis-

ter, Melbourne, was an enthu-

siast for the newly invented

passenger railway; her husband,

Albert, probably did more than

any single person last century to

promote innovation; and her el-

dest son, the Prince of Wales,

was quick to endorse the mo-

tor car. The Queen's father, later George VI, learned to fly in

1919, a time when it was a high-

The Constitutional Monarchy

Sir: Jojo Moyes, reporting the

Queen's speech to Pakistan's

parliament (9 October), sug-

gests that the Queen and many

others of the not so young feel

bewildered and even fright-

ened by the fast-changing world

a healthy scepticism towards all

things new and a desire a prop-

er evaluation and discussion of

new ideas and new technologies

before adopting them. Infor-

mation technology is being in-

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity,

Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

The point is that we harbour

ly risky husiness.

Secretary

Association

London E4

DONALD FOREMAN

Technophobia certainly does

other than Bill Gates.

is a by-product of Australia's necessary annual cull.

Because of the dramatic increase in the kangaroo popuof kangaroos and the processing lation we need to control their of their meat from your report numbers to protect the fragile environment and the many oth-Last year 3.1 million kanga-

troduced simply because it is

there and because we must

make sure we are not left out.

To this day there has been no

evaluation of the costs and

sources on making my home

into a local area network (re-

ported on the same page) to be

able to e-mail fridge@home to

see I need milk when I can just

open the door and ascertain that

fact. The possibility is absolutely

fascinating, but the costs seem

to grossly outweigh any bene-

Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Circumcision victims

Sir: It does seem ironic that the

foreskins of newly circumcised

boys are being harvested by a

commercial company and

processed to provide skin banks

for replacement surgery ("Sci-

entists plan market in spare

body parts", 8 October), while

at the same time a growing band

of unhappy men are seeking to

restore the foreskins which

were removed without their

why circumcision, which, as the

medical profession admits, has

no medical justification, should

It has always been a mystery

consent in infancy.

K V MOLLER

Why should I spend the re-

roos were culled from a popu-

lation of more than 50 million of the four main species. In addition to protecting the environment, the cull saves millions

thirst and starvation during Australia's frequent droughts. The government cull is car-

ried out by professional shooters who are licensed and must London WC2

still be so prevalent. I wonder

how the unwilling donors will

feel about it when they are old

enough to know what has hap-

pened? Does the benefit to

those with foot ulcers justify the

mutilation of small boys?

People vs parties

the constituency link".

Sir. Lynne Armstrong (Letters,

7 October) writes that the Ger-

man electoral system, the Ad-

ditional Member System, "can

combine proportionality ... with

the constituency MPs in two

ways. The constituencies would

have to be much larger under

AMS, in Germany often having

as many as 300,000 voters each.

Also, many constituency MPs

are also on a regional list.

Michael Portillo and (even

worse) Neit Hamilton could

have got back into Parliament

through the back door created

by the regional lists. It would be-

come impossible for the elec-

torate to kick out any MP whom

the party wanted in Parliament.

fectively combines proportion-

ality with the constituency link

is the system used in Ireland, the

Single Transferable Vote. Con-

stituents can choose which MP

in a multi-member constituen-

cy they prefer to represent

them. MPs, and candidates

The system which most ef-

This is very seductive in the-

R B WARBURTON

Flitwick, Bedfordshire

of kangaroos from dying from

comply with strict laws. The processing of the meat is subject to controls which are as rigorous and strictly policed as any of the more traditional meat industries in Australia.

NEIL BLEWETT High Commissioner

Australian High Commission

from the same party are in

competition with each other for

the same votes. In the last four Irish general elections, twothirds of the TDs (MPs) from the Fianna Fail party who lost their seats lost to other Fianna Fail candidates. It is very difficult for the parties to control who gets elect-

ed, as there are no safe seats. The people of Tatton would not even have needed Martin Bell to remove Neil Hamilton - he would have been defeated by other Tory candidates in the

same area. ALEX MACFIE Abergavenny, Gwent

#### ory, but in practice it does not work. The regional lists tend to Lecture by Rowse dilute the constituency link of

Sir: 1 am sure there are many people with memories of A L Rowse (obituary, 6 October, letter. 9 October).

My encounter with him occurred at Petworth House in the early Seventies. My wife and I spotted him gazing earnestly at a Fuseli painting. Being a fellow Cornishman, I introduced myself. He launched (I swear I saw a how wave) into a very loud and lengthy lecture on the wonders of Fuseli, interspersed with naughty snippets about Lord Egremont.

Within five minutes the fairly crowded room was emptied; even my wife disloyally snuck off. I was left stranded with him for a whole hour. I still have not quite recovered. PETER DRYDEN Brighton, East Sussex

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Last week in this space I bury, for example, said he reasked for thoughts about the garded the news items as bechanging news agenda - the extent to which "new" news deserved to elbow its way to the level of "old" news, of the politics-plus-diplomacy sort. ally subtle and thoughtful.

Janey Huber, a former eye surgeon from Cambridge, wrote in favour of the new agenda: "There was a time dle-aged white men, read only articles written by middle-aged white men, about the power struggles of middleaged men, white and other-"Traditional news is masculine and about men in power. The kind of news I want to read is about things that affect me: the survival of the planet, women's success or failure in Equal Opportunities cases, the things I should feed my children, what's going on in Europe, what will hit us next

from the US." Another reader, Clare Prout from London, agreed -"I'd like to support your idea that environmental and wider social issues are just as much news as the sleeping mumblings in the House of Lords. In many ways, these less 'hard' items are proto-news."

Dr Tony Daniels from Cleveland, while applauding the "clean new layout" of the paper, suggested that we are becoming less a newspaper than "a daily news magazine" and adds: "You are heavily hiased to the arts, fashion and the south-east of England in your 'news' coverage. Science and technology rarely get a look-in."

Well, we are upping the science coverage - today's page three heing an example but the "magazine" criticism came from other readers too. Colin Parker from Tewks-

ing "ton 'magaziney', if I can invent such a word ... I get the about science, culture, health, impression that some stories the environment and so on, are saved for a day when a page can be filled with stories that loosely come under the same heading." Quite a fel. The letters back were gener- of you agree with Mr Parker and Dr Daniels. Another London reader, Nicholas Maxwell, put the

opposing view: "By presenting the information the way when I read newspapers and you have chosen, you hreak saw only photographs of mid- down an unhelpful, and possibly unreal, division between hard and soft stories. The grouping of pieces "gives me what I need to make the links between different but related wise." There is a gender stories and makes me think question here, she argues: more about the pieces rather than just reading them and

That, of course, is exact. the intention of the new paper, even if we don't always succeed. The editorial and commercial dilemma is how to balance the traditional agenda with a grouping and choice of stories that tease out the new agenda while not losing too many readers on the way. If there is a pattern, it is that the offended readers tend to be older and the enthusiasts younger. E-mails, interestingly, are running more heavily "pro" than

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handwritten letters. When The Guardian R. launched in 1988, it managed to lose 100,000 sales in a year. Amiable though our shareholders are, I rather suspect that I would not be permitted to do quite that badly - and so far (phew). sales are well above, not below, our base figures before the new paper. But it is of course easier to lose readers than to win new ones, particularly since we don't have sugar-daddy money. So if you are enjoying the paper, tell a

#### QUOTE UNQUOTE

I'm going to reinvigorate this party and I'm not going to be derailed from it by criticism from armchair generals -William Hague, Conservative leader

Whatever happened to serious political thought? Surely it is not confined to old fogeys and matrons in sensible shoes -Lord Tebhit, Conservative peer

The Tory Parliamentary Party had a collective nervous breakdown. There is no other way of describing it - Kenneth Clarke, ex-chancellor, explaining defeat

I couldn't cope with the fans any more. I felt that their adnlation was misplaced. They were spending money on expensive performances when they should have been buying clothes for their backs. It made me uneasy - Dame Joan Sutherland, operatic singer

Step by step Unionists are being conditioned to become accustomed to "Irishness" rather than "Britishness" to prepare them for their intended destination - Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party

Half of me is impulsive, half of me is analytical. Part of me is evil, part of me is good. It is a struggle every day. Maybe if it just mc - Michael Douglas, actor

Every Government gets unpopular. When they turn on Tony : 'ar it will he unbelievably vicious. People will be shocked he was ferocity of it - Ken Livingstone, Labour MP

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\* URDA ER 199.



#### DAVID **AARONOVITCH** A TORY CONVERSION

For 80 years of courtship and marriage, John Marshall of East Kilhride believed that his wife, Ina, was the same age as he was. Now, 80 years is a long time to believe anything; most of us simply do not get the opportunity. So it can be imagined how bemused the 98-year-old Mr Marshall was, when - on opening hirthday cards receotly for his 98-year-old wife - he came across a telegram from HM the Queen, congratulating Mrs Marshall on reaching her centenary.

Mrs Marshall was phlegmatic. During the First World War, when the Marshalls were engaged, it had not really been the thing for a wife to be older than her husband. So the young lna had adjusted the figures. But time and fashion had moved on, allowing Mrs Marshall to comment that "it doesn't really matter much oow, does it?" John simply said that it was a little hard to take in.

I bet it was. And there are many who were here in Blackpool this week who know how John feels. On Thursday evening. it was Michael Portillo who played the role of Queen's telegram. He stood up in the ornate Opera House in the Winter Gardens, and told his astonished audience that he was tolerant.

And he wash I just a weeny till tolerant either. He was a lot tolerant. He was tolerant of gays, he was tolerant of single mums, he was tolerant of unconventional families as long as they loved and cherished their kids. And he cared too, He just couldn't work out how it had got around that he hadn't cared. It mystified him, given all the things that he and his colleagues had done. But the bottom line was that he did

His audience might have told him how this strange impression had been created. They recalled with great clarity Mr Lilley's assault on ladies who had children with men to whom they were not married. And what about all those speeches excoriating scroungers, "bogus" asylum seekers, or how the welfare state had sapped enterprise, or how it was better for the wealthy to decide themselves how to dispose of their riches,

rather than be forced to pay it in taxes to pay for the caring services?

Like the Labour Party a decade earlier. the suited and grey-haired delegates listening to their hero were being asked to stand on their political heads. As socialists had been required to jettison the comforting childhood toys of penal taxation, collective ownership and trades union power, now Tories were being faced off with the consequences of their own defeat.

Sitting there among them I saw many of the same variations of response that I had witnessed (and indeed, shared) when Labour was called upon to change. First there were the (few) people that had really believed in tolerance and caring all along: gay Tories and folk like that. The mystery with them was how they had put up with the ancien regime for so long. Then there were those who had had no very strong conviction, probably having been relaxed themselves in private, who seemed relieved to see the intolerant past go. Both groups applauded.

On the other side were men and women who were openly disgusted by Portillo's words, and felt their most cherished beliefs to be under assault from one they always considered to be their standard-bearer. They shifted angrily in their seats and muttered their dissent. Slightly less angry were a group who felt very uncomfortable, but thought that if Portillo said it, then at the least it was worth considering.

But my favourites - at least one-third of the hall - were those who had vehemently expressed the old, authoritarian view, hut afforded a sudden glimpse of a different, attractive world - jumped instantly and effortlessly from believing X to strongly endorsing the need for Y.

Mr Portillo, of course, knew what he was talking about. The juggernaut of social and economic change had run over some of the Tories' favourite doctrines, and change was a necessity. But, as ever, change had to be consistent with principle; only Labour changes because of a desire to court popularity. So hardly had the crowd drifted out of the Opera House before strenuous efforts were being made to reconcile the old (poofs and scroungers) with the new (life choices and caring).

The best of all came from the pen of Mr Peregrine Worsthorne, writing in the Muil. Perhaps, he suggested, toleration of - say gay marriage, would civilise homosexual culture, and lead to a lessening of gay promiscuity. Thus the original end (conventional morality) could be better served through the changed means. And it was not as though he didn't have a respectable role model, either, "This is not a question," he went on, "of learning to love it. It is one of learning to live with it and make the best of it. If the Queen can become reconciled, however reluctantly and uncertainly to the modern world, who am I to lag behind?" I have to say that I love this process.

While I am no fan of moral relativism, and dislike those who cannot behave properly, I thoroughly approve of people changing their minds. And it is a testimony to the human spirit that we insist that however much we change our minds, we remain ourselves unchanged.

Anyway, Mrs Marshall usually ends up heing right when she avers that "it doesn't really matter much now, does it?"



Watching her man: Ffion Jenkins at the Tury party conference yesterday

21/COMMENT

Photograph: Tom Pilston

## Ffion Jenkins: a model Tory fiancée

As the Tories struggled to come Hotel, Blackpool, on Tuesday to terms with their loss last week in Blackpool, there was one unmitigated good news

"I've become the man who accompanied Ffion Jenkins to the Conservative Party conference," William Hague remarked mock-rucfully as the photographers jostled for just one more shot of his glamorous fiancée. Young, fresh-faced, full of vim and relatively photogenic, the opposition leader's future wife is just what the Tories need at the moment. And they have milked her for everything she has.

Well, perhaps not quite everything. Bear in mind that Miss Jenkins, 29, is an Oxford graduate who used to play clarinet with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and who wrote an M.Phil thesis, entirely in Welsh, on the English bard Thomas Gray, Bear in mind also that she gave up her job as a top-flight civil servant after her engagement in March - she met Mr Hague when she was his private secretary at the Welsh Office – and has recently become director of operations at the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

Now, though, she stands mute beside her man. "There are no words from Ffion," explains her friend and press minder for the week, Nickie Durbin. Cherie Booth does not give interviews, she adds, so neither does Ffion. The energies of the political wife, it seems, must be devoted entirely to the twin tasks of looking immaculate and keeping schtmn. Every word which passes ber lips must be carefully vetted for the telltale traces of the "power behind

the throne" syndrome. There is something slightly different about Ffion, though. Take the scene in the Imperial

teenager Stephen Lawrence

began. The inquiry has already

made its first effort to break

through the wall of silence

evening. Around 8,30pm, the fover filled with an array of long lenses and flash guns which would have done any Hollywood star proud.

The reason? They had been called upon to record the wonder of Ffion's new frock. It has to be said that this rather natty mini-skirted black lace number by Neil Cunningham had been the cause of much speculation over a number of days. It had been rumoured - falsely, according to party sources to have cost £2,000. But even so, the event did mark a departure in political spindoctoring. Cherie's clothes may provoke a quite unwarranted amount of comment, but at least her minders do not invite the press along specifically to

photograph her latest outfit. Flion, of course, is younger than any party leader's other half has ever been. But still, the occasioo was a bizarre one. After keeping the photographers waiting for 45 minutes, the pair appeared on the stairs and stood so there so stiffly that forgiven for believing that they had never met before. Urged on by the crowds, they put their arms shyly around one another, but a request for Mr Hague to kiss his fiancée was greeted by the reply. "You'll have to

wait until the wedding for that." Despite the apparent awkwardness - on one of their earhest photocalls, she even had to guide his arm around her waist - the week has been a great success for her. As well as the photocall for her dress, she has been on show greeting Baroness Thatcher, visiting a children's play park and attending between 40 and 50 receptions with Mr Hague.

But according to Miss Durbin, a former Conservative

#### **ABRAMS** A STAR IS BORN IN BLACKPOOL

press officer and friend of Miss Jenkins' from Cardiff who has taken on the job of temporary minder along with Sally Hendry, wife of the former High Peak MP Charles Hendry, she is enjoying the role. "Her priority is to back her finneé, her . future husband," she says. . .

"She's a very strong woman, very intelligent woman, and she takes it all in the stride. She's a normal person like you and me. Six months ago nobody knew her, and suddenly she go engaged to the Secretary of State for Wales. The sheer volume of interest has been surprising, but I think she has coped admirably."

Meanwhile, Mr Hague seems to have a penchant for saying the wrong thing where his fiancée is concerned, "1 like women so much that I've even decided to marry one," he told a meeting of Conservative women the other night.

Fortunately the party faithful are not shaken by gaffes such as this, and they seem to regard their leader's engagement as a wholly positive development. They have taken Flion to their hearts, just as the press have. "She has been very touched by how people have treated her,

both the representatives and the Conservative Party as a whole," says Nickie Durbin.

There had been grumbling in some quarters about the fact that the couple were to share a suite at the Imperial during the conference - Lady Thatcher was rumoured to have said they should have got married first. But the party in its new liberal mode does not seem worried. In fact, the stories beloed to quell the malicious speculation that Hague's unexpected engagement two weeks before the general election was announced might have been rather too convenient, or even that he was gay.

As far as the party is concerned. Ffion is 100 per cent positive. "She's young and vital and she's just what we need," one Tory lady explained. "After all, It is 1997."

.The fact that their leader's partner must remain silent does not worry them. Ffion is said not to talk about politics, even in private. Even Miss Durbin does not know her activities, although she was friend's views. "She isn't a sometimes criticised for it. dincal animal in the way tha her husband-to-be is. She is here to support her fiance." When it was rumoured that Ffion was at odds with Mr Hague on the issue of Welsh devolution, he claimed they had not even discussed the subject.

For someone with her background, this seems more than a little strange. Her father is Emyr Jenkins, chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales, and her older sister, Dr Manon

Williams, is a key member of the Prince of Wales's staff. As a sentient member of the upper echelons of Welsh society. former Welsh Office civil servant and the fiancée of a former Secretary of State for Wales, Ms Jenkins might be expected to have thought about devolution in recent months. But even if she does have strongly held views on political issues, she will be expected to

keep them to herself in future.

There may be differences between the publicising of Cherie, the high-flying QC wife of the Prime Minister, and Ffion, the potentially equally high-flying fiancée of William Hague, but together their packaging represents a new strand of political culture. Just as we have come to accept that these women are likely to lead separate lives of their own which are quite unconnected to their partners' careers, we are diminishing their public roles. Glenys Kinnock could con-

tinue with her own political Denis i naichcreould make the odd crass remark in public and swill gin. Ffion Jenkins and Cherie Booth, meanwhile, must spend a fortune on haute couture in which to pose for pictures with children and animals. Heaven forbid that they should be allowed to open their mouths. After all, they might cause a scandal by saying something sensible. Let us hope, for their sakes, that their men are

## Year after year, the bitter toll of fathomless deaths



#### TREVOR PHILLIPS POLICING THE POLICE

If we are going to teach children of all backgrounds to love the historic culture of the British peoples, perhaps we need to pay very careful attention to the bit in the civics syllabus that deals with the glories of the nation's criminal justice system. In particular, we need to work out how to explain to our new Britons why it is that the one thing that the justice system does not appear

to deliver is justice. It deals with lots of criminals. Some of them are in uniform according to the nation's top cop, Sir Paul Condon. It is a system of sorts, in that it has rules and a framework, and moves people from one place to another. But justice? Tell that to the relatives of the 57

people who died in police custody over the 12 months to March 1997, according to Home Office figures released this week. Of the 29 cases where cause of death has been determined, 15 died apparently accidentally, and two by suicide. Depressingly, seven of those were black, continuing a trend of unexplained and inexplicable deaths in custody that has carried on for nearly three decades. There are too many uncer-

tainties here. Why do they die? How do they die? And how does it come about that year after year, there are new cases, new campaigns, new scandals; yet there is still a real chance that someone arrested for some small offence this weekend can wind up dead by Monday morning?

The tale of Leon Patterson, a young London man, stands for many. I first met Patterson when he was 17. He was already a small-time crook, who was serving his second stretch in a young offender institution. He talked like a pocket philosopher, holding forth on the inevitability of someone of his background ending up in crime, and serving periodic stretches at Her Majesty's plea-

Our paths did not cross again until in 1992. I learnt that after some years doing exactly as he had predicted, he had

been found dead in a police cell in a small northern town, naked and foaming at the mouth. His blood was daubed all over the walls of the cell, and his skull was fractured. His family were more or less asked to believe that despite having spent the night in a police station, be was high on drugs; had managed to get rid of his clothing and then beaten himself so hadly that he died of convulsions. And he did it all so quietly that no one noticed. His sister Stephanie has spent several years at least attempting.

that protects the boys' killers, by offering effective immunity to anyone who comes forward with information. These are desperate measures, and can only really he contemplated because the system has so dismally failed to deliver anything like justice in this case. Initial investigations seemed to be directed far more at the victim than at his most likely assailants; later inquiries ran

Why do people die in custody? How do they die? How does it come about that year after year, there are new cases, new campaigns, new scandals?'

to get an explanation even marginally more credible than this. As far as I know she still hasn't had one, and there seems little pressure to establish the truth. No one said Good riddance, but they might as well have done, so little effort seemed to be made to uncover what actually took place.

Of course, it is not only the accused who seem to suffer from a justice deficit. This week, the inquiry set up by Jack Straw into the death of the into resistance from the local community, who either wanted to protect the killers, or were too scared of them (or their big brothers) to tell the truth.

The Lawrences' own private attempts to force those who may know something to speak in court were blocked, and even the coroner failed to move things forward. I am sure that an inquiry is needed, but it is hard to see how it will break through the closed culture that has frustrated the

Lawrences at every turn. And theo there are those who languish in jalls, despite a mountain of evidence that they are innocent. I have recounted the story of Raphael Rowe before; he was convicted of assault and murder in the socalled M25 murders nine years ago. My doubts about this conviction remain: inconsistent statements, dodgy confessions, flaky witnesses, and discredit-

others, it is transparently clear that something stinks to high heaven. Yet the process of reviewing the case is complicated, bureaucratic, and expensive. And by past experience, you stand little chance of getting at the truth. You could read into this the lesson that the courts and po-

ed forensic evidence all play a

part. But what is important is

that in this case as in so many

lice are so good and thorough at their work that it is entirely understandable that protests against their results fail. Perhaps; but if you mention Guildford, Birmingham, the Taylor sisters and so on, this argument begins to sound like the feeble rubbish it is.

So far the new Criminal Cases Review Commission looks as though it is taking its work seriously. Good. But does it have the power to investigate properly? Can it, as an examming magistrate can in France, get into a case, order the po-

lice to deliver evidence, requisition new studies, and follow its nose to the real answer? Not really. As I understand it, the Commission is limited to ensuring that the conduct of the case was correct. That's not enough. Someone needs to be able to revisit the investigations and do them again if necessary. We need to act before our faith in the system fails further.

One step is obvious, and widely supported. Stop the police investigating themselves. No one believes their findings, probably unfairly, it is humiliating for decent coppers to find themselves forever under the shadow of suspicion because the system devised for checking their conduct is faulty.

Second, we need to throw off the historic belief that once a court has decided its verdict that should be the end of it, unless a higher court decides another way. New techniques of investigation, new insights into the human mind are constantly offering us greater certainty. There must be new ways found of allowing deeper, thoroughgoing reviews of the decisions of courts of all kinds. Perhaps it would exert a new discipline on all the officers of our courts to get it right. None of this can bring back the dead; but we need to bring the right people to book, if we are going to be a society at ease



TO MAKE AN INSTANT DONATION

## **Michael Cummings**

**Arthur Stuart Michael** Cummings, cartoonist: born Leeds | June 1919; OBE 1983; married (one step-son); died London 9 October 1997.

"The pen is mightier than the sword", a cliché old but true, was dusted off by the late

columnist Jean Rook when she did an anniversary interview with her fellow Daily Express staffer, Michael Cummings. This was some years ago when Cummings was already on the way to establishing a record for a cartoonist's spell with a single newspaper. By the time he officially retired from Express



Cummings: hard-edged caricature of political personalities

worked there for over 40 years, and after several more years of freelancing for both the Daily and the Sunday Express, it was not far short of the halfcentury.

Michael Cummings was boro in Leeds in 1919, in the aftermath of the Great War. His father was A.J. Cummings, a political columnist of the period who would achieve Fleet Street fame as the political editor of the old News Chronicle. Clearly the seriousness of the father was a major infinence on the growing boy, who chanced to have an obvious instinct toward drawing. The young Michael had a

good education, starting with The Hall in Hampstead and moving on to Gresham's School in Norfolk. Then he went on to art school, studying at the Chelsea School of Art for three years hefore he was called up into the Royal Air Force. Ahle to make use of his artistic ahility, the RAF made him a Draftsman and he was posted to the Air Ministry. Here he drew aeroplane parts for the duration, and on discharge promptly resumed his arts studies at Chelsea.

Cummings had been aiming get published, and it became in-



tooning since his school days, and freelanced the odd sketches here and there. His first success came with the left-wing weekly Tribune in 1939, a paper that reflected his own political leanings. He returned to the Tribune after the war where the editor, Michael Foot, gave him steady work as an illustrator for the book review page. Now and then a political picture would

at a career in political car- creasingly obvious where Cummings's future lay.

In 1948 his father encouraged him to try for a cartooning job on the Daily Express. where he had heard there was a whisper that Giles, the country's leading cartoonist, was seeking some relief from the day-after-day drive of turning out the newspaper's regular editorial cartoon. Lord Beaverbrook, the paper's proprietor and a lifelong enthusiast for cartoons and cartoonists, spotted the young artist's potential and could see that Cummings' style, more serious and more life-like than that of Giles, would make an interesting contrast if the two

cartoonists were alteroated. Unhappily for Cummings, his editor did not at first agree, and sacked the young man after a three month's trial. However, Beaverbrook intervened and insisted that the newcomer was given another chance. He was, and this time won through. satisfied from editor and pro-Cummings and Giles now prietor down to the reader in drew three editorial cartoons a week each, with Cummings

Despite Cummings' caricatures of everyone from the Queen on down, he was appointed OBE in 1983, and by 1989 had published 5,000 cartoons. Many of these were re-published in annual alhums which ran from 1954. The first was entitled These Uproarious

Denis Gifford

#### **Professor Alexander Lutsko**

Alexander Lutsko, nuclear physicists born Osipovichi, Belorussia 23 January 1941; Professor of Nuclear Physics, Belarus State University 1987-90; Rector, Internationa Sakharov College of Radioecology, Minsk 1990-97; married Valeria Mamontova (one daughter); died Sierra Nevada, Spain 4 September

As Founder and Rector of the International Sakharov Institute of Radioecology in Minsk, Alexander Lutsko showed great compassion to that generation of Belarusan children suffering from cancerous illoesses and performing artists at the brought about by ouclear radiation following the 1986 Cher- walls of the Sakharov Institute nobyl disaster. The Sakharov are today fortified with the into ionising radiation and the be an artist," said Kazimir Male- in Vladivostok. He was a leader Lutsko: 'scientist as artist'

education of specialists in radiation medicine. This is a field which explores the means of protection from radiation and the development of academic courses in hiomedical sciences linked to nuclear physics.

Lutsko was the personification of the "scientist as artist". He had a vision of a new international system of education across the whole former Soviet Union, a system which would develop the individual's personality; the monolithic Soviet university education was a legacy of Marxism he particularly despised. He was proud to be included with Belarusan visual 1995 Edinburgh Festival. The

vich, "is to be a scientist," Elena Bonner, Andrei

Sakharov's widow, has provided inspiration and support to the institute from the day it opened its doors in November 1992. Its unlikely site is what was a suburhan secondary school in an unnoteworthy street, Dolgobrodskaya, next to the enormous complex of the Minsk Tractor Factory hillowing chimney smoke. The institute came into being on the wave of the new political ideas and initiatives sweeping Belarus when it gained independence from the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Lutsko was born in 1941, in a small town 100 kilometres south of Minsk. From 1978 to 1987 he worked at the Institute of Biochemistry at the Acade-

in the Soviet Union's scientific explorations, voyaging through the Sea of Japan, Pacific and Indian Oceans. The dissemination of his reports - he identified nuclear activity as a result of the disposal of Russian submarines -- caused surprise and unease to



Mikhail Gorbachev's administration in its early years,

From 1987 to 1990, as Professor of Nuclear Physics at Belarus State University, Lutsko headed the university's Isotope Laboratory. The creation of the Sakharov Institute owed much to his friendship with his university colleague Stanislav Shushkevich. Together they masterminded the removal of all nuclear weapons from Belarus territory.

The new nation state of Belarus is strategically positioned at the heart of the new post-Berlin-Wall Europe, bordering on Russia, Poland, Lithuania and the Ukraine and equal in size to Scotland, but with a population twice that of Scotland. The two friends worked time; Shushkevich was seen as landscape. I shall never forget ly in the last three years, and a

the ideal political leader in his role as Speaker at the Belarus parliament. In the political upheavals and unrest of the last three years he is now a vigorous member of the Opposition.

1 was introduced to Alexander Lutsko through the work of my Kingston University colleague Alan Flowers, who was attracted to my work as Professor of European Cultural Studies and my preparedness to link the faculties of the arts and the sciences. Lutsko participated in a special summer school in 1995, Bridging the Gap between Science and Art, and between Eastern and Western Europe", in the form of an expedition through 25 gardenscapes in England and Scotland leading to exhibitions and symposia in Edinhurgh and He loved the B

him in reflective mood in the garden of Combermere Abbey in Cheshire, or at St Leonard's School in St Andrews en route to the Edinhurgh Festival. Lutsko was fascinated by the

getting the extra one in the Sun-

day Express. The alternation of

Giles' comical cartoon family

up to their "Casey Court" ca-

pers in very realistic settings,

with Cummings' hard-edged

caricature of political person-

alities and parties in highly

imaginative set-ups, worked

hrilliantly, and everyone was

direct line between creative genius and insanity, and it was at St Leonard's, at a Demarco European Art Foundation symposium, that he presented his thesis The Theory of Abnormality, in which he suggested ways of narrowing the gap between the logical and intuitive ways of investigating the oature of reality. One of his fellow speakers there was Vytautis Landsbergis, the first democratically elected President of the independent state of Lithuania. Kingston University has giv-

programme of academic studies has developed to the mutual benefit of both students and teachers. Through this alliance the British Foreign Office "Know-How" Fund has given more to the Sakharov Institute. than any other Belarusan academic institute.

All those who went to Alexander Lutsko's apartment in Pushkinskaya will remember his extraordinary hospitality in his large drawing-room, its every inch covered in photographs, artefacts, sea shells and sculpture, recording his love of travel and visual art. He regarded everyone he met as a potential frieod.

Lutsko died of sudden heart failure near the summil of a en much support to the mountain in the Sierra Nevada ht over 9.000 fee -- Richard Demard

## Muqimuddin Farooqi

Muqimuddin Farooqi, party activist: born Ambetha. Uttar Pradesh, India 1920; joined Communist Party of India (CPI) 1940, member. national council 1958, central executive 1972, central secretariat 1981; married Vimla Kapoor (one son); died New Delhi 3 September 1997.

Muqimuddin Faroogi was one of the last Indian Communist leaders. He championed the work-

ing-class movement for over four decades, firmly believing that socialism would ultimately prevail. Although the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe affected him deeply, he remained convinced that socialism was a workable sci-

ence and "could not die". As national secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI) for 25 years. Farooqi was respected even by his political adversaries for his integrity.

Soft-spoken and always dressed in a white homespun pyjama and kurta, or long shirt, he was probably the most accessible leftist leader in New Delhi, who practised his ideology, living in a couple of dingy, airless rooms above the party office in the heart of the city, eating frugally and always willing to help anyone in trouble.

Age did not affect his political militancy and his last public speech, minutes before he suffered a cardiac arrest, was

against the venality of the Congress Party which supports the federal 15-party United Front coalition government. In contemporary Indian politics Faroogi was a nostalgic reminder that things had not always been so rudderless and shoro of principle.

Muqimuddin Farooqi was boro in 1920 in Ambetha, a small town in Saharanpur district in northern Uttar Pradesh state, into a modest Muslim household and educated local-

ly. He moved to the prestigious St Stephen's College in Delhi for his Master's degree, became college president, and joined the Communist Party of India, then fighting the colonial gov-

ernment for independence. In 1940 he was expelled for successfully organising a university strike against the arrest of Jawaharlal Nehru, then a Congress party leader, and later free India's first prime minister. The British university vice-chancellor forfeited his

MA degree which, much to Farooqi's delight was restored to him at a special convocation 49 years later in 1989.

Thereafter, Farooqi became the first general secretary of the All India Student's Federation and was jailed three times by the colonial government for participating in the Quit India movement launched against the British by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942. In 1964, however, Faroogi opted to remain with the "progressive bourgeoisie"

group, opposing the radical Marxists who split the CPI to form the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the CPM. Soon after, he rose to become a member of the Communist Party's

central executive, its highest decision-making body. And, though the CPI joined the federal coalition after general elections last year Farooqi often broke with party discipline, lashing out at the government for its ineptitude and corruption.

- Kuldib Singh



Farooqi: to him, socialism was a workable science

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo rvices, Wedding anniversaries, morium) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EH 5DL, telephone to 0771-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0771-293 2012) or faced to 0771-293 2012). 293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a

Lectures

TODAY National Gallery: Rebecca Drew, "Cityscapes (2): Canaletto's Venice", Victoria and Albert Museum:

Eleanor Townsend, "The Develop-ment of Renaissance Maiotica". British Mo eum: Delia Pemberton,

"'Clothe Yourself in Fine Linen': an-cient Egyptian textiles", 1.15pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, Spiralling Cycles of Subjects and

National Portrait Gallery: Alfred Bradley, "E.F. Benson, Creator of the Mapp and Lucia Novels", 3pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron. Minchin-hampton Centre for the Elderly, opens a new building at the centre. Wind-mill Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud.

Changing of the Guard TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mou ent mounts the Queen's Life ed Regiment mounts the Outen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham To-MORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am: 15T Batallion Scots Guards mounts the Ouesn's Guard, at anchingham Palace,

#### Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark, former MP, 65; Miss Maria Bueno, tennis player, 58; The Hon Sir Adam Butler, former MP and government minister, 66; Sir Bobby Charlton, footballer, 60; Vice Admi-Governor of Guernsey, 60; Sir Timothy Daunt, former ambassador to Turkey, 62; Sir Michael Edwardes, company chairman, 67; Mr Tony Evans, Head Master, King's College School, Wimbledon, 52; Miss Dawn French, actress and comedienne, 40; Mr Geoffrey Haslam, insurance comwar Ceoliney Fasiam, msurance com-pany director, 83; Sir Denys Hen-derson, chairman, The Rank Organisation, 65: Mr Charles Jones, grants administrator, CIBT Education Services, UK, 63; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McIntosh, 78; Mr Alan Pascoe, former Olympic hurdler, 50; Lord Pri-or, chairman, GEC, 70; Mr David Rendall, tenor, 49; Mr Jerome Robbins, choreographer, 79; Miss Marsha Singh MP. 43; Air Marshal Sir Michael Stear, 59; Lord Tordoff, former president of the Liberal Party, 69; Mr Thomas Wheare, headmaster of

Bryanston School, 53; Mr Richard Wilson, civil servant, 55; Mr Tony Wor-thington MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Northern Ireland Office, 56. TOMORROW: Professor Juliet Cheetham, sociologist, 58; Dame Elizabeth Chesterton, architect, 82; Mr Jaroslav Drobny, former tennis player, 76; Mr Anthony Figgis, am-bassador to Austria, 57; Mr Kenneth Griffith, actor, writer and documentary film maker, 76: Mr Robert Heron, former director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 70; Mr Jonathan Holborow, editor, the Mail on Sunday, 54; Mr Magnus Mag-nusson, television quizmaster and writer, 68; Dr John Moffatt, former provost, The Queen's College, Oxford, 75; Mr Rick Parfill, guitar player and singer, 49; Vice-Admiral Sir John Parker, 82: Mr Luciano

Pavarotti, operatic tenor. 62: Miss Angela Rippon, television presenter. 53; Mr David Threlfall, actor. 44; Mr Michael Verey, merchant banker. 85; Mr Nigel Waterson MP. 47: Sir David White, chairman, Nottingham Health Authority, 68.

TODAY: Births: Henry John Heinz, pur (the Day of Atonement).

King of England, 1537; James Ramsay MacDonald, statesman, 1866; Ralph Vanghan Williams, composer 1872 Deaths: Piero della Francesca. painter and writer, 1492; Elizabeth Fry (Gurney), Quaker prison re-former, 1845; Robert Stephenson, civil engineer, 1859; Edith Louisa civil engineer, 1859; Edita Lousa Cavell, murse, executed by the Germans, 1915. On this day: the first Morris Minor car designed by Alectissigonis was produced at Cowley. Onco., 1948. Today is the Feast Day of SI Edwin, St Ethelburga of Barkins Saires Edits and Omran. St Management of the Compan. St Management of the Saires Edits and Omran. of SI Edwin, St Edicard Cyprian, St Max-ing, Saints Felix and Cyprian, St Max-imilian of Lorch and SI Wilfrid of

food-products magnate, 1844; Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, writer and lec-turer, 1884; Richard Burton (Jenkins), actor. 1925. Deaths: Sir Thomas Wyatt, poet and diplomat, 1542; Leonard "Chico" Marx, comedian. 1961; Jean Cocteau. poet. novelist and playwright, 1963. On this day: the Order of the Bath was constituted, 1399; the title "Defender of the Faith" was conferred on Henry VIII by Pope Leo X, 1521; Peter the Great became Tsar of Russia, 1669; the Apollo 7 spacecraft, with a crew of three, was launched from Cape Kennedy, 1968. Today is the Feast Day of Si Agilbert, St Alexander Sauti, Si Bruno the Great of Cologne, St Canice or Kenneth, St Gummarus or Gomaine, St Mary Soledad and St Nectarius of Constantinople. Today is also Yom Kip-TOMORROW: Births: Edward VI,

#### FAITH & REASON

#### Incitements to violence within sacred texts

Over the past millennium socalled Christian societies have shamelessly used religion as an excuse for violence, claims a new book -- or is it the other way round? John Kennedy examines the evidence.

In his provocative new book, Does Christianity Cause War?, David Martin picks a fight with the zoologist Richard Dawkins, who claims that Christian certainty causes war; he insists that such infantilism is outdated, along with belief in Father Christmas and the tooth fairy. Professor Martin is a celebrated sociologist of religion, and obviously a Christian heliever. He dismisses Dawkins' views as an example of Enlightenment superstition.

Many Christians will tend to side with Dawkins in this Holy War. But the evidence is misleading. Consider, for instance, the First World War memorial to the Machine Gun Corps at Hyde Park Corner. It shows a naked King off lightly. Although it is true that they David, whose bottom gleams up Park Lane. He displays his full frontality down Constitution Hill. He has a very large sword. The inscription reads "Saul has slain his thousands, but David has slain his tens of thousands?.

This piece of vainglorious stupidity mocks God and maligns the dead. But it is not specially Christian, although thieved from our sacred texts. And therein lies the problem. Most human governance is ruthlessly tyrannical. and conscripts everything in aid of its projects - especially the sacred. Martin handles this contradiction hrilliantly - the zest with which rulers manage and deploy violence, including the Saviour who died by it.

But Martin rather avoids the incitements to violence that lie within those sacred texts, not least the genocidal conflicts of David's time. He also understates one central problem of Christianity: the claim that its universally relevant truth is the property of an exclusive group, the Saved.

Give those keys to the ruler of any worldly kingdom, and justified mayhem is inevitable. But it is remarkable that such purely religious strife arose mainly in the first half of the second Christian Millennium. Here Martin is surely right - hut he does let the Crusadors were mainly Gothic thugs from Northem Europe, they were clearly cheered on by Bernard of Clairvaux and Catherine of Siena. He is, however, right to exclude the 150 years of allegedly religious wars in Europe from 1500; this was essentially a Catholic civil war between Spain and France, driven by national rather than religious identity.

Martin explores the growing diversity of relations hetween church and society in the following centuries. That Catholic family quarret war left Christendom in ruins and a new Protestant ascendancy in Britain and North America. These societies retained a shameless capacity for self-justifying violence, in the British Empire and on the American Frontier. But their churches began to peel apart from the body politic, and helped to make that body less tyrannical. They begin to govern by consent rather than by assertion of divine right. Communities are given the freedom to choose, and tend to choose peace. The pattern spreads more widely; liberal democracies do not make war upon one another, and induce others to do so only at the risk of angry protest. There is a Christian root to this, and a Christian future, as suggested in the growth of peaceable Pentecostalism worldwide.

Elsewhere, having given up childish things. Europe got on with some really grown-up wars. Napoleon. Stalin and Hitler are children of the Dawkinsian Enbeen born on the wrong side of that blan- an expositor of religion. ket. It seems reasonable to argue that Christianity does not cause war in itself,

and that its restraints have, for most of its history, avoided the horrific conflicts

that mar the post-Christendom period. Martin regrets the inability of the churches to develop some practical wisdom from their revealed truths. He is especially amused by the antics of the international Christian hureaucracy, whose hyper-moralism displays every virtue but that of utility. It's worse than he imagines. The World Council of Churches now proclaims that the Churches should renounce all theological and other justification of the use of military force. In their fanatic zeal they fail to see that such a new commandment is totalitarian rather than pacifisi - il simply suppresses debale.

Marlin insists that the Christian vocation in public life is inevitably engaged with violence, which sits uneasily with Christian commitment. He indicates the complex relations between the experience of the sacred, the social nature of religion and the logic of politics. He wants another Reinhold Niebuhr to stimulate us, but in the meantime he is not doing badly himself. The next century will be as religious and conflictual as this - hut not, God willing, so terrilightenment, though they may have hie that a zoologist is a better guide than

Faith and Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely.

URDA ER 199.

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## Financial shares set the pace as takeover hopes grow

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

TEN BY

Financial shares, which for drew attention to Woolwich, long led Footsie higher on up 35p to 317.5p. It is capitechnical considerations, are talised at £5bn against Abbey's once agaio setting the pace - £13bn. but this time its down to take-

over hopes. Others, like Norwich Union and Woolwich, also enjoyed the action.

At one time Abbey was up 42p; it closed with a 34p gain still on the buy tack. at 954.5p. The first huilding society to turn itself into a bank has already had an eventful year, holding talks with a number of rivals and being linked with the likes of National

Westminster. Now it is being suggested that Barclays, when it collects also lifted Halifax, 14.5p to its BZW cash, could be templed into a bid by Abbey's the resources to mouot a mabuge mortgage book. But the jor strike and insurance is an suspicion that it could regard obvious attraction. Lloyds points gain at 5,227.3. Sup-

The Abbey advance was helped by hullish comment Abbey National stole the from HSBC, ahead of a tradstock market show yesterday. ing statement in the next two

> Norwich Union remained firm, gaining another 3.5p to 351.5p with Nat West Securities Other insurance groups

made headway with speculation about corporate action never far away. GRE gained 7p to 325p; General Accident 19p to 1,085.5p and Commer-

742p; it is big enough and has

Northern Rock, the last huilding society to coovert into a hank, was also engulfed long-standing bank - Bardays.

- was one story. An even more hizarre one contemplated a strike from Great Universal Stores. Such a deal would he the ultimate in the current round of bank-retailer links. The shares jumped 16.5p to a 498p peak. They eoded their first day's trading last week at 463p.

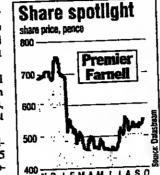
The carlier more technical financial feast stemmed from cial Union 9p to 806.5p.
The feeling activity is near the rush of demutalisations. forcing tracker funds to adjust their portfolios.

Footsie, in lacklustre trading, manage to yawn to a 9.5

ambitions, gained 8.5p to with the FTSE SmallCap in- Strauss Turnbull caution. dex reaching a peak.

ter came to ao abrupt halt as time, motored 12.5p to 78.5p SBC Warburg suggested a as Jardine International, the

RioTioto, the resources again, or National Westminster giant, added 4p to 974.5p following an analysts' trip to Nevada but GKN dipped 7p (after 35p) to 1,396.5p following Societe Generale



Appleyard, which has

Ladbroke's impressive can-looked vulnerable for some in speculation. A bid from a 270p price; it fell 5p to 293p. Far Eastern group, appeared with an 80p-a-share offer pricing the garage chain at £53.3m.

Redland hardened 17.5p to 257.5p as takeover rumours went the rounds. Last week chairman Rupert Agnew con- tal injection. ceded the hard pressed building materials group could be wide open to a bid. However some of the gain could have been due to the higher German interest rates, which groupshould take some of the pressure from Redland's continental operations.

Premier Farnell, the electrical equipment distributor, Monday's interim figures.

Around £74m against £63.8m stable are thought to have been is expected.

Allied Domecq, the pubs and spirits group, rose 5.5p to 496p, anticipating its strategic review and Highland Distilleries, the Famous Grouse Scotch whisky group, bumped along at its 12 month low of 284p; there are worries it may

have to help out its French partner, Remy Cointreau, through a rescue bid or capi-Engineer IMI added 10p to 439.5p, a high. The company is benefiting from its £86m take over of Herion-Werke, a

German pneumatic valves Nottingham Forest, the latest football club to make its debut, failed to score, ending at 61p against the hoped-for 70p.

Pan Andeau Resources held at 35p. It and other mining depressed by a forced seller.

#### TAKING STOCK

Cortecs International, the biotech group, should move its domicile from Australia to Britain by late November. The switch should help the shares. They have suffered because some domestic funds. are not allowed to invest in overseas stocks. Indeed, Cortecs was hit by sudden selling by a fund which acquired the shares in the mistaken belief Cortecs was British registered. The move to PLC status may also make the shares eligible for PEPs. The price firmed 2p to 175.5p.

Vocalis, a voice recognition group, recorded a 12p gain to 69.5p following a £3m contract with Ericsson. It is its fourth deal with the Swedish group. The shares arrived last year at 95p and went to 123p but, before the Ericsson deal, were around their low

Suspicion that it could regard obvious attraction. Lloyds points gain at 5,227.3. Sup- Abbey as too hig to swallow TSB, another with insurance porting shares made headway	is expected.
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## Davies drafts old guard into new City regulator

The financial services megaregulator, SuperSIB, came a step closer yesterday after the chairman, Howard Davies, named his key deputies. All three are currently with regulators.

Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor. reports on the creation of the new City watchdog.

The new unified City regulator began to take shape yesterday after Howard Davies named three managing directors to work under him, drawing exclusively on existing regulators to fill the posts.

He also clarified the structure of the enlarged financial services watchdog, confirming that the system of regulation by type of institution was to be ditched in favour of supervising different functions across all types of business.

Dubbed SuperSIB by the media and known as NewRO intercally, the new watchdog will not be named officially until the end of the month when the new organisation will be formally launched and its new executives introduced.

By opting for a flat management structure, with no chief executive, Mr Davies found senior positions in the new organisations for the key figures in the self-regulatory organisations that will be replaced by SuperSIB.

He deliberately avoided the creation of a chief executive's position in order to maintain the loyalty of senior regulators who might otherwise have been unwilling to give up their existing fiefdoms for what they perceived to be smaller jobs.

The only surprise omission from yesterday's line-up was Securities and Investments Board chief executive Andrew Winckler, who leaves SIB at the end of the year. Like Colette Bowe, head of the Personal Investment Authority, Mr Winckler decided against swapping the top job at an existing regulator for a second-tier role in the enlarged watchdog.

The three managing directors named yesterday are:

SuperSIB's management committee and be Foot to main roles at NewRO

directly responsible, as chief operating of-ficer, for the regulator's internal operations, including burnan resources and finance.

Michael Foot, the Bank of England executive director responsible for banking supervision, who will head up a new financial supervision function encompassing all types of institutions.

Phillip Thorpe, who has headed the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro). He will lead an authorisation and enforcement division and take on responsibility for consumer relations.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, the Goveroor of the Bank of England, said yesterday they planned to make the appointments to the SIB board before Royal assent was given to the Bank of England Bill, which stripped from the Bank its supervisory role.

Once that hill is passed, expected to be in the spring of next year, the SIB board will become responsible for all regulation. The existing self-regulatory organisations will, however, not be officially rolled into SuperSIB until a new financial services act is passed, which might not be until 2000.





Top team: (clockwise from top left) Richard Farrant, head of the Securities Howard Davies has appointed Richard and Futures Authority, who will chair Farrant, Phillip Thorpe and Michael

Mr Davies said yesterday that two-year transition period presented risks, but he said it was a hetter alternative to leaving the SROs independent. Wrapping the front-line regulators in informally would reduce the risk of staff leaving or firms dragging their feet on enforcement issues because they felt they were dealing with a lame duck regulator.

The appointments were being seen yesterday as a neat solution to a potentially difficult combination of high-profile appointments. Observers said Mr Farrant was being rewarded for running arguably the best-managed SRO, while Mr Thorpe's appointment was viewed as an appropriate prize for his deft handling of the Peter Young scandal at Morgan Grenfell in which he ensured that thousands of investors were promptly compensated.

It is thought that success, together with a series of stiff fines for regulatory transgressions, gave the 43-year-old former barrister from New Zealand the edge over Ms Bowe, whose PIA has struggled to enforce adequate redress for the pensions mis-selling scandal.

As well as running the SFA, Mr Farrant, 52, has experience of hanking supervision at the Bank of England and as an adviser to the Hong Kong Banking Commissioner where he handled a succession of crises at local banks.

Mr Foot, 50, has been at the Bank of England since 1969 when he joined as an economist. His career bas included a spell as head of the Bank's foreign exchange division and as the UK's representative at the IMF in Washington.

Other appointments announced yesterday included Oliver Page, a deputy director at the Bank of England, as a director of financial supervision. Martin Roberts moves from the DTI to become director of insurance and friendly society supervision.

Mr Davies said yesterday: "I now bave my top team in place. All three bring particular strengths. But the key will be for us lo work together as a team. We are fully committed to doing so." The creation of the new vertical struc-

ture replaces the old system in which one office oversaw all aspects of regulation for a particular type of financial husiness. Mr Davies said the new system had been arrived at after an internal study backed up by outside consultants from McKinsey.



John Leach, chief executive of Brent Walker (left), with the Close Brothers Corporate Finance executive, John Llewellyn-Lloyd, who handled the sale of William Hill

#### End of the road for Brent Walker

Brent Walker looks certain to be liqui- be no return for shareholders and its shares independent force in British betting dated following the sale of William Hill. its last remaining substantial subsidiary, for £700m to Nomura. The disposal marks the end of the leisure empire built up by former boxer George Walker which at one time owned marinas, more than 1,000 pubs and the bookmakers, which were sold yesterday.

Completion of the sale will leave Brent Walker with less than £5m of assets offset by more than £500m of debts owed to a consortium of banks, most of which bave written off the had loans. There will

will be delisted at the end of the month. Nomura's acquisition of William Hill's

1.500 betting offices makes it the secondlargest bookmaker in Britain after Ladbroke. It is understood to bave outbid rival Bass, which owns the smaller Coral chain, as well as a venture capitalbacked management huyout. The Japanese takeover is likely to signal the end for the incumbent management.

Guy Hands, bead of Nomura's principal finance group, said: "William Hill has a great future. We will create a new

which will stimulate greater competition in the industry."

Nomura has made a series of large acquisitions in Britain recently, including 5,400 pubs to make it the country's largest pub landlord, a train leasing company and. a portfolio of Ministry of Defence housing. Its strategy in each case has been to use the strong cash flow from the assets to back bond issues ahead of a planned flotation of the business after between three and five years.

Tom Stevenson

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## **US** price levels give markets another fright

For the third day running, the financial markets got a bit of a fright. This time, reports Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, it was due to news of an alarming increase in the prices charged by US manufacturers.

Wall Street's knee-jerk reaction to the latest economic statistics was to mark share and bond prices sharply lower. Although they later recovered a little. there was little comfort for those who fear the long-awaited stock market "correction" is

The Dow Jones index fell nearly 60 points almost as soon as it opened, but was only 25 points down at 8,036.37 by late morning. Treasury bonds shed more than a point. In London the FTSE 100 index ended 9.5 points higher at 5,227.3 after falling as much as 31 points during the day.

The 0.5 per cent rise in US producer prices last month was more than twice as much as analysts had expected. Prices have stopped falling at an annual rate and now look to be heading firmly upwards.

This appeared to put flesh on the bones of fears expressed on Wednesday by Alan Greenspan. the Federal Reserve chairman, when he warned of the danger of higher inflation due to the tight labour market and strong

Higher energy prices helped explain the price surge, the second monthly increase after seven months of decline. But the "core" index, excluding energy and food, jumped by 0.4 per cent anyway after a 0.1 per cent rise in August.

Energy costs rose 1.5 per cent last month after a 1.4 per cent gain in August. Petrol prices were up 2.2 per cent in September following a 5.9 per cent surge in August.

There were other special factors helping explain the increase in core prices. Tobacco prices jumped 3.2 per cent because manufacturers raised the price of a pack of cigarettes by seven cents at the start of Sentember as the industry prcpared for the expected costs of Alchemy, the venture capital settling lawsuits. In addition, new car prices

increased by 1.4 per cent, their strongest gain since October

Some economists drew comfort from these one-off effects. David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities in New York, said: "There is no discernible change in the underlying tame inflation picture."

But others said yesterday's figures suggested inflation was indeed on an upward trend. "It is likely to affect the market's perception of the possibility of a rate hike," said Christopher Low of HSBC Markets. This week's succession of The board of MCI, Brilish

bad news has clearly left the Telecom's US partner, last world's stock and bond markets on edge. Mr Greenspan's testimony, sowing seeds of doubt about the US economy's prospects for inflation-free growth, was followed on Thursday by an unexpected increase in German and French interest rates. This was seen as a step towards getting European interest rates in line ahead of the start date for the single currency.

A senior Bank of England official said yesterday that preparations in the City of London for the start of the single currency were well under way. Ian Plenderleith, executive shares offer values MCI at director at the Bank, said: "The around \$34 a share. London markets will need to be able to operate in the euro from Brothers in New York to advise the outset across the full range of their wholesale activities and practical preparations are now well advanced to achieve bankers from Lazard Freres. that by January 1999."

## Sheaffer battle heads for US court

The battle for Sheaffer, the loss-making American pens business, could come to a US court next week as a UK venture capital company fights it out with Bic, the French giant best known for Biros and disposable razors. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a messy affair.

company run by Jon Moulion. is hoping to secure an early court hearing in New York to decide who will win control of Sheaffer, one of the world's best-known pen makers.

A hearing is not scheduled until January hut Alchemy says Sheaffer's finances are so pre-

MCI to consider bid

from WorldCom

night agreed to further evalu-

ate the \$30bn bid launched by

the rival US telecoms group

met formally to consider the bid

since WorldCom stunned Wall

Street and BT 10 days ago

with its unsolicited offer which

topped BT's agreed \$23bn bid.

a deadline for when it will de-

cide which bid to recommend

to shareholders. The World-

Com offer, which is entirely in

the form of paper, values MCI

at \$41.5 a share, BT's cash and

MCI has appointed Lehman

it on the WorldCom offer. It

was already being advised on

the BT deal by investment

"They [MCI's directors] now

However, MCI has not ser

This is the first time MCI has

WorldCom.

carious that a delay would prove damaging to the business. It is keen to decide the matter so improvements can be made in time for the all-important Christmas selling season. It is pushing for a hearing in the Appellant Court in New York as soon as possible.

The court's decision should end a bruising battle between Alchemy and Bic, both of whom feel they have the right to buy Sheaffer. Both are offering around \$30m for the business. Sheaffer certainly needs

fresh backing. Though a wellknown name it bas been lossmaking for years and last year lost "several million dollars" on sales of around £35m. It has suffered from lack of product innovation and fierce competition from rivals, particularly Gillette. the razor company which owns the Parker. Watermans and Papermate hrands.

have a second advisor, and they

will say they would like to be

more informed," said Steven Co-

here research director at Kell-

ner DiLeo, a New York

arbitrage firm. "MCI is not in a

position to turn these guys away.

They accepted a 25 per cent re-

duction in consideration on be-

half of their shareholders and

here comes someone to make

announced they had complet-

ed a strategic link-up with Por-

tugal Telecom. BT and MCI

have paid £74m for a 1.5 per

cent stake in Portugal Telecom.

The Spanish telecom operator.

Telefonica, will take a 3.5 per

alliance that it announced along

with MCI and Portugal Telecom

- Michael Harrison

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chair-

cent shareholding.

in April.

Meanwhile BT and MCI

their shareholders whole."

agement had a right of refusal. Though Alchemy later said it would exercise that right

Genifor, the current owners of

\$135m for Sheaffer 10 years ago.

led by ex-Parker Pen executives

Owen Jones and Shane Dolo-

hanty, approached Alchemy for

funding for a management buy-

out. Alchemy then approached

Genifor who re-ignited talks

with Bic to generate competi-

tion. Bie later signed an agree-

ment, for around \$30m, with the

acknowledgement that man-

The bid battle dates back to and match the Bic offer, Bic last year and focuses on a right went to court to block it, sayof refusal which the Sheaffer ing it was Alchemy that had management have to buy the taken up the right of refusal, not the management. Martin Bolland of Alchemy Bic made an approach to

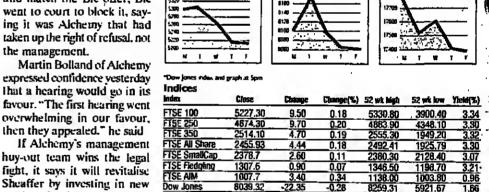
Sheaffer, last year. Genifor is a that a hearing would go in its favour. "The first hearing went Geneva-based, Luxembourg overwhelming in our favour, quoted company with Middle Eastern backing, which paid then they appealed." he said If Alchemy's management The talks later broke down huy-out team wins the legal and the Sheaffer management. fight, it says it will revitalise

Sheaffer by investing in new product development. It would be pleasing deal for Jon Moulton, who hacked the buy-out of Parker Pen from

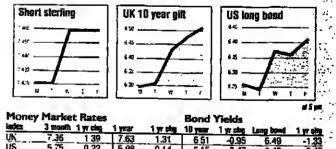
Manpower when he was at Schroder Ventures. Parker Pen's middle man-

agement team then included Mr Jones and Mr Dolohanty, who are now respectively the chief executive an chief financial officer of Sheaffer.

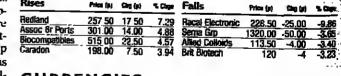
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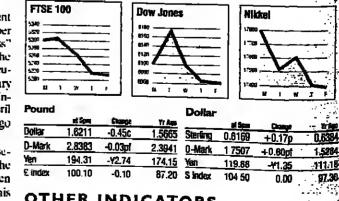
#### INTEREST RATES



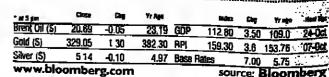
#### MAIN PRICE CHANGES



#### CURRENCIES



#### OTHER INDICATORS



## **Azlan launches** £24m rescue issue

Azlan, the computer distributor, is preparing to relist its shares after warning that it will go into receivership unless investors approve a £24m rescue rights issue. The company, whose shares were suspended at 555p in June pending an investigation in accounting irregularities, is proposing a two-for-one rights issue at 37p to pull it back from the brink. Barrie Morgans, who took over as chief executive in July, outlined an astonishing catalogue of failures by the old management but said the problems had now been "cleared out".

The investigation pointed to "serious failures of management and internal financial controls... acts of concealment and improper behaviour... strains arising from the rapid growth of the business" and "disregard of generally accepted accounting principles". The failures led to the resignation of Azlan's chairman, chief executive and finance director. Nine other employees face disciplinary action and six have been warned. Adjustments following the investigation meant the company reported losses in the year to April of £14.1m compared to estimates made less than six months ago of £14.8m profits.

Mr Morgans called the events "really fundamental housekeeping errors". He said the company had grown too quickly: "The expansion would have stretched a much bigger company. When the internal financial controls fail, they go very quickly. All this man, said the shareholding underpinned the three-way happened in just six months,"

He said he was surprised by the depth of the problems. However he said the problems were limited to the UK husiness, just one-third of the total, and Akam, the training business bought recently, was performing very strongly.



**IEREMY** WARNER ON WHY GRANADA HAS RULED OUT A DEMERGER

30AGU

## Robinson's Granada decides against demerger

Every year about this time, Granada holds a get together of senior executives and advisers to thrash out corporate strategy for the year ahead. The coming session will in many respects be an occasion for self congratulation, for the whole group seems to be firing oo all cylinders right now and the potential for improvement at Forte, acquired after an acrimonious takeover hattle last year, is exceeding

everyone's wildest expectations. Nothing is ever perfect in business, however, and after a spectacular run, the share price has been underperforming these past six months. In part this is because the pace of hotel disposals has been much slower than was promised at the time of the Forte takeover. Some hotels that were ear marked for sale, might now be

But it is also to do with a lingering concern over where Granada is heading. Nobody can quarrel with performance, which since Gerry Robinson moved into the hot seat in the early 1990s, has been spectacular. Rather it is to do with the shape of the company. Granada is essentially a conglomerate of three parts - its hotel, catering and motorway service station interests, its TV rental interests, and its glamour TV and media companies.

Conglomerates are unfashionable these son philosophy, that it is possible to apdays and if the City has been prepared to turn a blind eye to the conglomerated nature of Granada thus far, nothing is for

Focus and consolidate; these are the two great corporate mantras of the age. If they were followed at Granada, the group would be breaking itself up into at ast two and possibly three parts.

So could the October strategy meeting bring news of a demerger? The akers and lawyers who make money out of these things will be disappointed to learn this, but there is virtually no possibility of Executives have studied the arguments and pressures for it, and concluded that no benefit would be derived from going down that route. The decision has yet to be taken formally, but effectively it has already been ruled out for the foreseeable future. Should shareholders be concerned about this disregard for fashion, or can Mr Robinson justify his odd-

hall combination of businesses? The Granada chairman is so much admired and well liked in the City that nobody is seriously going to challenge his decision. Even so, some fund managers will feel uncomfortable with the situation. Few believe any longer in the old Han-

ply with success a common set of management skills across a range of diverse businesses. To the extent that this worked in the past, it was achieved by imposing rigid controls and targets across the group, pretty much regardless of the needs and long term health of its individual

In today's more competitive and globalised markets, this is generally considered a crude and wholly inappropriate approach. Maintaining competitiveness in today's environment requires managers to be highly sensitive to the long term needs of their businesses, and to have a perfect understanding of the markets in which they operate. Plainly a group that is run across a range of industries according to a book of numbers cannot hope

Fund managers have also begun to demand more clarity from companies than can ever be achieved in a conglomerate. where it is often possible to hide the poor performance of one part of the group behind the buoyant performance of another. If there are decisions to be made about which sectors to invest in, it should be the fund manager who is making them, not the corporate executive, who by and large should be sticking to his knitting. That's the general view, in any case.

All of which rather begs the question of why the City was prepared to back Granada in its bid for Forte when only a couple of years previously the target had been LWT. Beyond a TV in every hotel bedroom, the two businesses could hardly be more unrelated. As it has lost faith, then, with the old conglomerates of the 1980s - Hanson, BTR, BAT Industries the City seems only too happy to support

the creation of another. To some exteot, this is explained by the old adage of what goes round comes round. By the time they begun the process of breaking themselves up, both Hanson and BTR were past their sell by date, mature businesses in mature industries, some of them so unrelentingly run for cash over the previous decade that they were all hut dead and

Granada, by contrast, is in two of Britain's fastest growing industries, media and leisure, and so far it has not been possible to fault the way it has run either. Forte is rurning into a veritable gold mine, while the group's successful hid for digital terrestrial and its continued interest in BSkyB is transforming its media interests into some of the most valuable in

the country.

On the "if it ain't broke, why mend it" philosophy alone, then, there is little case for demerging Granada. There is also plainly a considerable benefit to Granada in size for the sake of it. Without LWT, it would not have been large enough to do Forte. Without the critical mass Granada now processes in both these industries, a whole range of higher risk investment and business opportunities would be closed off. Furthermore, it is not at all clear that demerger of itself does create shareholder value. The performance of Thorn EMI has been little short of disastrous since TV rental was separated from music.

Consistency never was the investment community's strong point. Even as the old style conglomerate has lost its allure, there are certain other types of conglomerate, notably media conglomerates like Lord Hollick's United News and Media, which have become highly fashionable. A conglomerate like Granada would seem to be right on the cusp of the City's tolerance level, but while it continues to pile on value both in media and leisure at the present rate of knots, nobody is in a position to complain.

## Lenders offer unprecedented fixed-rate mortgage deals

Banks and building societies this week launched a host of cheap fixed-rate mortgage deals that could save house buyers thousands of pounds. Andrew Verity Pexamines how lenders are taking advantage of the dramatic fall in longterm interest rates.

Woolwich yesterday cut the interest rate it offerers borrowers for fixed mortgages over five years from 6.99 per cent to 6.79 per cent. Nationwide also announced it had cut its five-year fixed rates by half

The cuts follow a dramatic drop in long-term interest rates. enabling mortgage providers to borrow cheaply and pass on the savings to customers.

National launched an offer of 6.49 per cent, fixed for five years, and cut mortgage arrangement fees to £250 from £395. Northern Rock responded a day later by cutting its rates to 6.45 per cent. Until a week ago, very few providers offered rates of less than 7.25 per cent on five-year fixed-rate mortgages.-

Industry observers believe the latest cuts create an unprecedented situation for new borrowers where fixed-rate mortgages are substantially cheaper than those with variable rates.

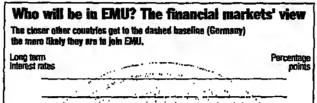
Most variable mortgage

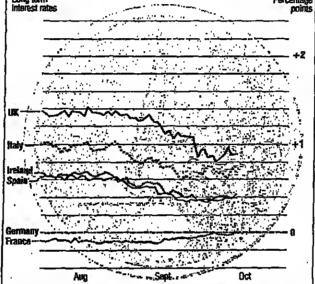
rates now hover between 8.25 and 8.45 per cent. But borrowers can oow fix their payments at a rate almost two percentage points below this. Earlier in the week, Abbey With the next move in interest rates expected to be up, the gap is likely to grow further in the short term.

> Mark Chilton, a mortgage expert at international property consultants Savills, said: "There is oow a stunning differential between fixed and variable rates which may be unprecedented. Every man, woman and child in the country should be looking at this."

Mortgage brokers believe the deals oo offer may be so cheap that existing borrowers as well as new borrowers may benefit from taking them up. tries, such as the US, indicates that borrowers benefit from switching if fixed rates are more than 1.25 points below variable rates.

The rates may only be on offer for a short time. Mortgage providers set in motion the cheaper deals at the beginning of the week when they could borrow long-term money at a rate of just 6.6 per cent. Longterm interest rates have since risen to more than 6.9 per cent.





TOWARDS EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means Investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are conflicent the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they thick the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher initiation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

#### When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The independent asked analysts from: Mikko Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

Probability EMU is delayed:

Probability EMU never happens:

Saloman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time. Probability EMU starts on time:

#### Rate rise boosts

#### The chances of EMU going ahead on time have on balance improved in the past week, according to our panel of experts, although the reaction was oot

chances

unanimous. The majority view expressed by Julian Jessop at Nikko Europe is that the chances of EMU going ahead on time have increased hecause the synchronised rise in European interest rates on Thursday confirms the increased political momentum towards a single currency taking effect on schedule. Rate rises also improve the chances of the leading players

per ceot on time. Capel takes a similar view. But Robert Lind at ABN Amro is concerned about the impact of the fall of Mr Prodi's government on the grounds that Italy

getting budget deficits below 3

is less likely to go ahead. However, the collapse of the Italian government could increase the chance of a technocratic government being formed which could implement the budget changes which political parties could find impossible to justify to their supporters. -- Clifford German

#### IN BRIEF

#### Tobacco companies settle in first passive smoking case

Tobacco companies have settled the first passive smoking case to be tried in court, it was announced yesterday. The tobacco companies, which were being sued by 60,000 US hased flight attendants for \$5bn, agreed to pay legal costs, totalling \$47m, and to establish a \$300m fund to study the effects of passive smoking. The flight attendants claimed that passive smoking oo aeroplanes had caused ailments such as heart disease and lung cancer Yesterday's settlement does not mean the end of the road for the tobacco companies. The class action may be over, but passive smokers are still free to pursue individual claims in court.

#### TV industry further in red

Imported television programmes such as Friends and Oprah took Britain's film and television industry further into the red on the balance of payments last year. The total shortfall of £191m between £948m in receipts and just over £1bn in paymeots made overseas compared with a deficit of £165m in 1995. British film successes overseas, such as Four Weddings and a Fimeral, brought in higher earnings from the North Amersurplus of £91m, compared with a deficit of £10m in 1995.

#### Front-runner for Grosvenor

The Emir of Qatar, Sheik Hamed hin Khalifa Al Thani, has emerged as a front runner to buy the Grosvenor House Hotel from Granada. Though a deal is not expected for several weeks it is understood that Granada is negotiating with the Sheik and one of two corporate bidders over a deal. The hotel, on London's Park Lane, has a book value of £302m though Granada is hoping to secure up to £375m.

#### Nottingham Forest slides

Shares in Nottingham Forest, the first division football club, fell from their placing price of 70p to 61p on their first day of dealings on the Alternative Investment Market. The float raised £2.6m for the club instead of the £3.5m originally hoped for.

#### Ed Wallis

In vesterday's paper we carried a story headlined "Power-Gen succession battle begins as Wallis set to depart". The headline was incorrect. As the text made clear. Mr Wallis has no intention of giving up his position as executive chairman of PowerGen at present and we apologise to him for having suggested otherwise.

#### Golf operator reports fall

PGA European Tour Course, the golf course operator hit by a profits warning in July, reported a sharp fall in first-half profits to £46,000 compared to £1.7m the previous year.

#### How mortgage costs are falling Interest charged on fixed rate for five years

tronic rival to the London Stock Ex-

assured after Royalblue, the UK's leading trading software provider.

said yesterday it would offer free ac-

cess to Tradepoint's order-driven trading system along with the London

The agreement means traders will

be able to access both the Tradepoint

and London exchanges from the same

dealing screen for no extra charge. It

should enable Tradepoint to compete

more effectively when the Londoo ex-

Stock Exchange's system.

Provider	New rate	Oid rate	Change 9
Wootwich	6.79	6.99	0.2
Nationwide	6.99	7.59	0.6
Northern Rock	6.45	6.89	0.44
Abbey National	6.49	6.99	0.5
First Mortgage	6.69	6.79	0.1

# Free access to Tradepoint system Jardine buys Appleyard for £53m

The future of Tradepoint, the elec- change switches from its traditional market-making system to the electronic change, looks significantly more order-driven format on 20 October. Shares in struggling AIM-quoted

Interest Rates

Tradepoint, which was rescued from the brink of administration in July by an emergency cash injection from venture capitalists, jumped 12.4 per cent to 136.5p yesterday. John Hamer, chief executive of

Royalhlue, said growing customer demand for Tradepoint had prompted it to develop an interface linking Tradepoint into its widely used software package, Fidessa. "This gives Tradecompetition, and should mean extra volume for us," said Mr Hamer.

Royalbiue will take a fee from Tradepoint on each transaction. Although Tradepoint offers advantages over the London order-driven system, principally that it is anonymous and potentially cheaper, at present traders have to use a separate workstation to access Tradepoint.

The deal with Royalblue should make access easier and give Tradepoint wider exposure.

-- Sameenn Ahmad

2.50% Prime 4.50% Diecours Fed Funds 5.25% Spain 3.75% 10-d Repo

2 yr chg

day seized control of Appleyard, the ailing West Yorkshire motor dealers, with a £53m bid. Appleyard's chairman and chief executive, Mike Williamson. has agreed to accept the deal.

(16% løst week)

(5% last week)

· The two businesses are roughly equal in size and the deal will create the higgest single motor dealership in the UK with annual sales of £1.3bn. Jardine is paying 80p a share, a pre-

mium of 21 per cent on the market

1970 = 100 1970 = 100 1983 = 100 1977 = 100

Agnouteral Energy Ind Metals Livestock Prec Metals

two businesses were a good fit geographically and Appleyard's VW and Audi dealerships would fit well with Jardine's strength in Fords. Jardine's chief executive, Peter Ward, a former chief ex-

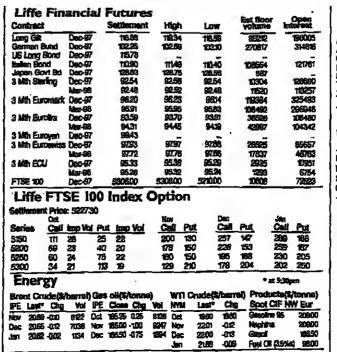
ecutive of Rolls-Royce, said yesterday. Mr Ward said that Jardine would surrender Appleyard's Scandia lorry franchise in return for a payment of £7.5m and there would be some adjustments in its list of dealerships, but Jardine would keep the Minories Vauxhall business and the contract hire business.

-- Clifford German

31 Dec

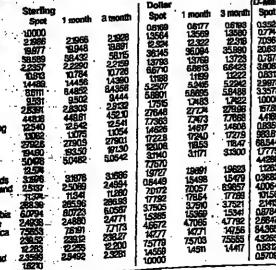
price of Appleyard shares on Thursday night, but well below the peak of 92p when Appleyard first emerged as

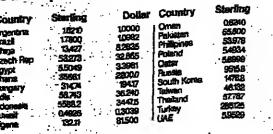
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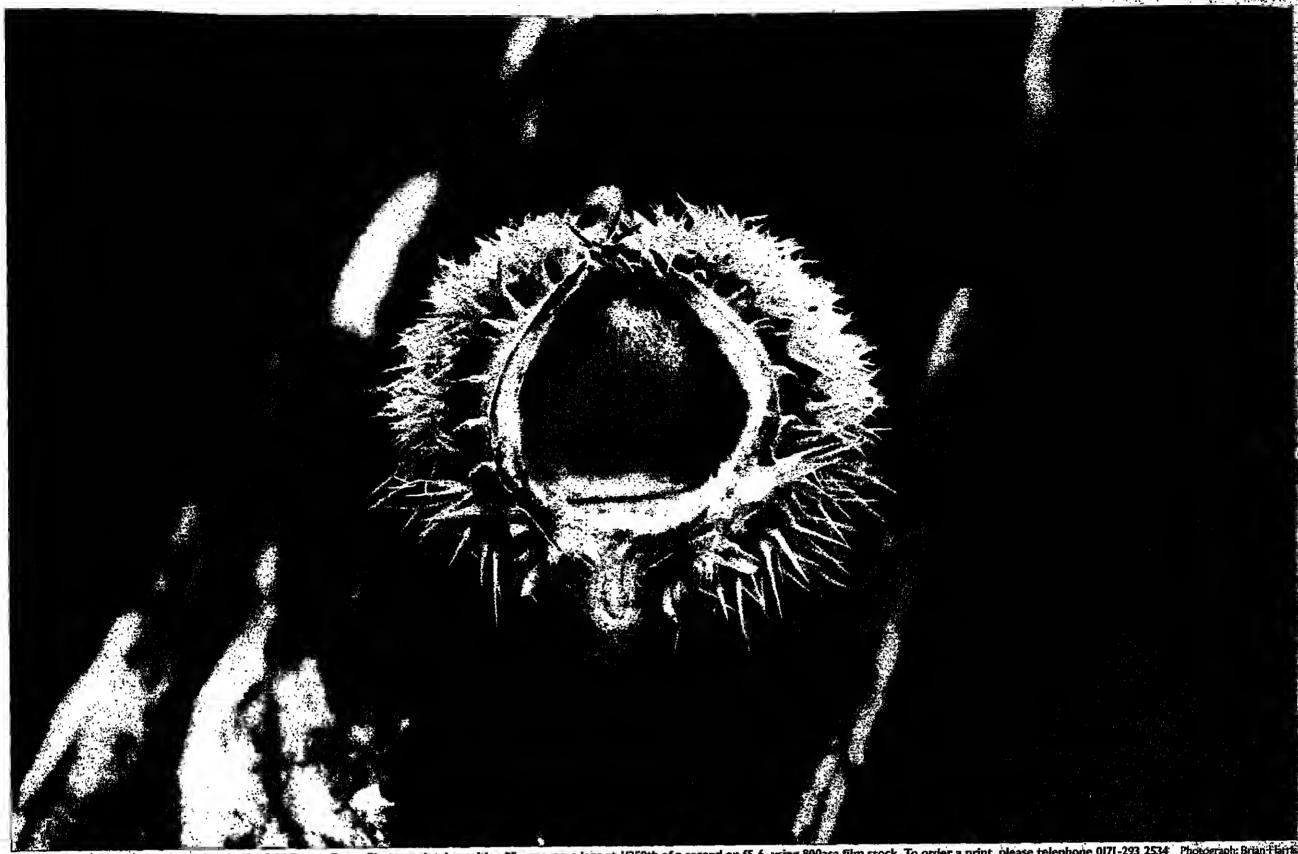
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Money Market Rates

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THE SATU 11.00

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'I had a pleasant, confessional voice when I began, and then terrible things happened to me, like 50,000 cigarettes ...' Leonard Cohen emerges from his Zen retreat to give a rare interview to Tim de Lisle

#### Plus

- Decriminalise cannabis the latest important developments in our campaign to change the law
  - Getting away with it all why adultery is guilt-free for professional women
- Showdown in Rome the action from England's crucial World Cup qualifier against Italy

IT'S CHANGED ... HAVE YOU?

## THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT

## Enjoy Sunday lunch at Mezzo for £10

The Independent and Independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to enjoy Sunday lunch at Mezzo. From just £10 you can enjoy a 2 course lunch, or for £17.50 a 2 course dinner. Every Independent diner will also receive a complementary glass of Champagne.

The Independent diner who makes the reservation, and all their guests will be able to choose a starter and main course, or main course and desert from the specially prepared Independent menu. Alternatively, you can have a 3 course lunch for £13.50 or a three course dinner for £21.50. The promotion is available on any Sunday until November 30th.

#### HOW TO BOOK

Phone Mezzo Downstairs in advance on 0171 314 4000 to make your reservation, identifying yourself as an Independent diner. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. To participate in the offer, simply telephone Mezzo Downstairs direct to make your table reservation, identifying yourself as an Independent diner. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in the promotion 2. Pre - booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability. 3. Diners will not be entitled to participate in the offer if they have not made a prior reservation. 4. The lunch offer is valid every Sunday until November 30th at Mezzo Downstairs. 5. The offer entitles the Independent diner and all members of their booking to a 2 course lunch for £10 or a two course dinner for £17.50 against a specially prepared menu comprising of 6 starters and 6 main courses, or a 3 course lunch for £13.50 or 3 course dinner from £21.50 against a specially prepared menu comprising 6 starters, 6 main courses and 6 deserts. The menu may change from time to time during the course of the promotion. 6. The offer entitles each person in the booking to a free glass of champagne. 7. The cost of the meal includes VAT and excludes other drinks, coffee/tea. A discretionary service charge of 12.5% will be added to each bill. 8. The offer is exclusive to Independent readers and this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is non transferable. 9. Mezzo restaurant trading terms and conditions apply. Promoter: The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E145DL.

#### **Exclusive book offer**

The Mezzo Cookbook is available to readers of the Independent and Independent on Sunday at the special price of £20 (rrp £25).

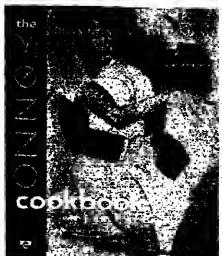
To receive your book please call 01933 44.3863 with your credit card details, or send a cheque made payable to Reed Books to Conran Octopus, 27 Sanders Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 4NL. Please quote H299. P&P is free and books will normally be delivered within 28 days.

Each reader who buys the Mezzo Cookbook will be entered into a prize draw in which winners will receive one of four prizes.

- Dinner for 4 at Mezzo, including Champagne on arrival on New Years Eve
- Magnum of Veuve Clicquot
- Deluxe New Years Hamper
- Lunch for ten at Mezzo

To get the final part of our exclusive Mezzo Cookbook serialisation - Spice and Sugar see tomorrow's

Independent on Sunday



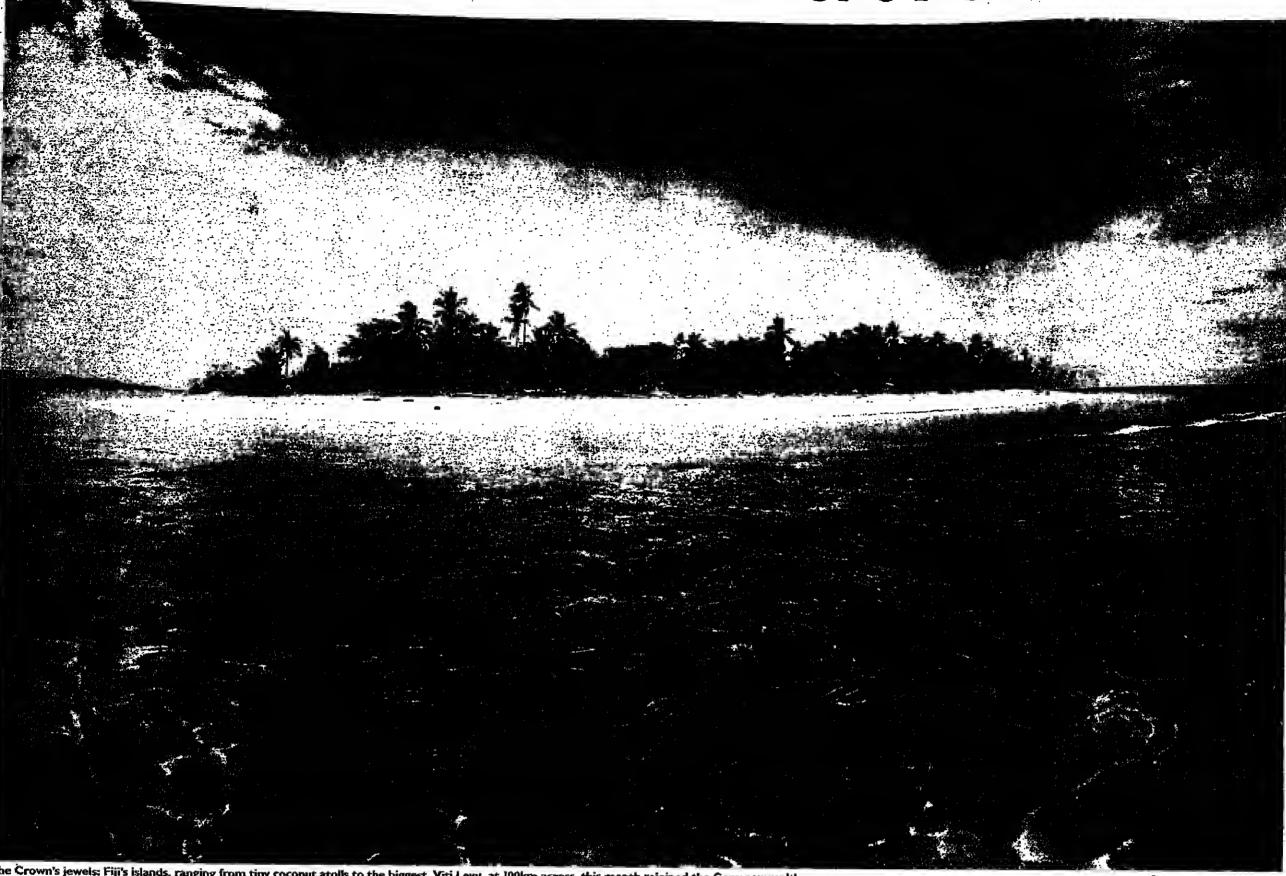
If you did not receive your a copy of the Mezzo Cookbook serialisation please send postcard to: Missing Magazines, PO Box 4019, London, EH 5BN





# TIME OF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



The Crown's jewels: Fiji's islands, ranging from tiny coconut atolls to the biggest, Viti Levu, at 100km across, this month rejoined the Commonwealth

Photograph: Robert Harding

## Dream lands

The inhabitants of Fiji's 1,000 islands once ate visitors from the West; now they greet them with open smiles. Ging Cowen checks out the reality of paradise, while overleaf we take a tour of the other specks of land that dot the vast Pacific Ocean.

I had thought Fiji was just an island in the South Pacific, with the kind of distant nonchalance that sees Tahiti as little more than a Gauguin painting on the wall of some metropolitan museum. Fiji islands number, in fact, about 1,000, from tiny, coconutpalmed jewels set in the blue, to Viti Levu - big Fiji - around 100 kilometres across.

Geographically, Fiji straddles the 180th meridian (as far around the globe from Greenwich as you'll get); anthro-pologically, the islands mix Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia, and aeronautically, they intersect the main American-Australian flight path - providing, for me. touchdown on a round-the-world ticket.

But where, precisely to go in Fiji? There was a daunting smorgasbord of potential idvils - enhanced by cowrie necklaces, hibiscus blooms behind the ear, mile-wide smiles and "bula!", the phiquitous, genuine call of welcome. The friendliness of Fijians is infectious.

Odd, this, from a race of warriors once famous for cannibalism. But then, as Tom Stoppard once put it, "Certainly a tribe which believes it confers honour on its elders by eating them is going to be viewed askance by another which prefers to put them in a little bungalow somewhere." Know who you prefer? From the Nadi airport I shared an old Leyland bus with some modern-day Fiji warriors - a rugby team. They dropped me at the turning to Natadola Beach Hotel. Brad, their coach, insisted it had the best beach in Fiji, and had booked me a room on his mobile.

So I walked down a dirt track to a glor-

ious sweep of white sand, empty but for a young village boy on a horse, galloping wildly bareback. A very private resort it was, too, with a shaded pool and frogs in the garden at night.

The next morning I took an early ride, cooled by a light shower of rain which cast a perfect rainbow in an arch across the bay. There were ultramarine starfish in the shallow waters, and great white cumuli massing on the flat, ocean horizon.

Then I set out to explore the capital Suva is an appealing, old colonial city (Fiji being a British protectorate from 1874 to 1987 -



and having very recently rejoined the Commonwealth). I had been warned by a friend that "it pisses down" there. It did. I took shelter in the local market where tables were laden with tropical fruits and waka, the dried roots of the pepper plant so essential to Fijian culture in the form of kava, a mildly soporific drink that is shared at ceremonial times. It was probably drunk as an accompaniment to Reverend Thomas Baker, the missionary who ended up as a cannibal feast.

A touching display in the Fiji museum in Suva shows Baker's Bible, next to the fork used to eat him and the bowl that served him up. Also on display are the remains of his boots - with two squashed soles. He had such small feet; I wonder who ate them.

Levuka, the one-time capital, is a 12minute flight from Suva over a luminous, aquatic palette and down on to a lick in the jungle, between volcanic peaks, on the island of Ovalau. There's a bumpy, scenic drive into town. The waterfront is lined with a string of old clapboard buildings. A tunacarming factory, with an ecological blind eye, provides the community's main economy.

There are myriad churches, including the Sacred Heart whose bright green neon cross guides ships into the port, and whose bells ring the hour twice. Levuka had a rampant history that is now reduced to little more than a few backwater ripples of gossip. A century ago, such was its reputation that ships' captains are said to have been able to navigate into port following rum bottles floating out on the tide. Now there's the faded Ovalau Club, a Masonic lodge, a couple of restaurants and a few rather ramshackle hotels, including the Royal.

This is a masterpiece of unmodernised bedrooms (Somerset Maugham stayed in No 10), with an empty billiard room and a dining-room that is always laid up, but has the air of never really expecting to serve anyone.

The place is magical. And the longer you stay (I twice postponed my flight out), the more little paradises you discover, such as Devokula, the dream of Jeremiah Tuku Tuku, a Fijian of disarming simplicity.

He returned to his native village (an hour's drive out of Levuka) after working in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, because he had a vision - to create what is now a small settlement of beauty, abundance and peace. Devokula is a youth project that aims to preserve traditional Fijian values and understanding of the land for future generations. Set on a hillside of wild guava trees running down to a black sand beach. it is a place where time stands still. Here, Jeremiab believes, the world will come to rest.

If you want a straightforward return to Fiji. Air New Zealand charges £1,124 including tax, for travel in October. Discount agents such as Trailfinders (0171-938 3366) offer lower fares. A better plan may be to buy a return ticket to New Zealand, or a roundthe-world trip: Gina Cowen's high-season circumnugivation cost £1,085, including tax, through Trailfinders. She paid F\$200 (£115) per night at the Natudola Beach Resort near Nadi airport (00 679 721000); at the Royal Hotel, Levuka, Ovalau (00 679 440024). she paid F\$15 (£9) for a single room.

#### INSIDE

TRAVEL 3/Jumbo city: Seattle's Boeing Museum

5/City break: Stockholm

LEISURE 12/Canyon abseiling

**SPORT** Rome showdown: Glenn Moore, lan Ridley, Guy Hodgson and Keith Elliott look forward to England's big match

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## **CALDER**

When a Citroën 2CV overtook the Eurostar train somewhere near Maidstone, the British contingent buried heads in newspapers and pretended that a woefully short-sighted transport policy was nothing to do with

If you have not yet travelled on a Channel Tunnel train from Paris to London, this is how it goes: Paris to Calais, 186mph all the way (that is not a figure you need to remember, the "train captain" will remind you of it in a tone only one stop short of an outright gloat about French supremacy). Calais to Folkestone, circa 100mph, now that the fire damage has been repaired. Folkestone to London - whatever speed Railtrack will allow it to crawl through Maidstone, Otford and Penge on lines built 150 years ago. Don't expect anything in three figures.

Aboard the 6.37am grande vitesse from Gare du Nord to Waterloo, about the only kind of vehicle that didn't overtake us on the British stretch was a milk float.

This was my first trip on Eurostar, despite my living five minutes' walk from the terminal at Waterloo. In the three years since services began, I have always been able to find an air fare to Brussels or Paris for less than the cost of the train, (Since we pay the full price for all travel, this is an important consideration). But finally I bit the £119 hullet train. And a most pleasant journey it was, too, despite some imaginative prices in the buffet; not even British Rail dared to charge 80 pence for a packet of crisps. But I challenge the received wisdom that city-centre-to-city-centre journeys are faster by train than by plane.

I reckon it is possible to travel from any point in London to any point in Paris or Brussels more quickly by air than by rail. People who say "Oh, but Eurostar takes only three bours from the middle of London to the middle of Paris' conveniently overlook the fact that you have to check in for Eurostar at least 20 minutes ahead, and that neither Waterloo nor Gare du Nord could be described as being the centre of its respective capital, except by an over-enthusiastic estate

To give Eurostar the benefit of the doubt, though, let's assume that they are. I still reckon it is possible to get from London Waterloo to Paris Gare du Nord by air, using ordinary public transport. And to back up the claim I've put Air Miles where my mouth is, and bave bought two return tickets to Paris, travelling in a couple of weeks' time. My colleague Harriet O'Brien will take the train. She has nominated the days and departure times: we shall depart simultaneously from the Euroat Waterloo next Frida noon. The slowest one to reach the Gare du Nord buys dinner.

Speed isn't everything, though, and we shall also evaluate the quality of our journeys. So each of us has a checklist of things to achieve: go for a walk, make a friend and have an exotic drink. Trickiest of all, we also have to write our accounts of the journey in real

The train I caught was about 10 minutes late, which in the operator's books makes it on time. One of Eurostar's advertising boasts is punctuality - that six out of seven of its services arrive at the appointed time. But when you look more closely at the statistics, you learn that a train is defined as "on time" if it is no more than 15 minutes late. This is the same definition of punctuality as used by airlines, but we travellers are not allowed such latitude. Try turning up 15 minutes late for a plane or train, and see if the reciprocal rea-



## Drops in the ocean

Think about the land surfaces of the globe added together. The Pacific Ocean is even bigger; it also happens to be twice the size of the puny Atlantic. Land , breaks through the deep, vast blue so rarely that these freckles seem especially precious, but now the Pacific Islands are at risk of disappearing. As 'The independent' reported yesterday, if global warming continues at the present rate these tiny dots could be mped. Yet for the n they remain idyllic, as Cothy Packe discovers while navigating her way round a short list of these

Tahiti

ocean jewels.

Largest of the Windward Islands, one of the Society Islands, and part of French Polynesia, Tahiti is simply the best known island in the south Pacific. Land of Gaugum and Mutiny on the Bounty, it is shaped like a crepe pan with a stubby handle, or a flatfish with a blobby tail, depending on whether you emphasise the French or Polynesian culture. It became a French protectorate in the middle of the last century, when Britain failed to help the formidable Queen Pomare. Descendants of the roval house still live on Tahiti as ordinary citizens.

itive simplicity" which first attracted Tahiti's adopted son is mainly found in the Paul Gauguin museum on the south-east side of the island. Down here is the South Pacific of legend; palm trees, the fresh fish on sale by the roadside; a beach barbecue beats anything you can eat in any of the fancy restaurants. The capital. Papeete, will appeal if you like

Once this was the land of dark-eyed fresh, and the traffic will make you feel girls in grass skirts; nowadays the "prim- you are on the peripherique. But instead of Paris-Match, a black pearl makes a longer here than anywhere else. more authentic souvenir.

Raratonga From the minute your jumbo jet touchblue water, coral reefs. And don't miss es down in Raratonga in the middle of the night, you know you are in paradise. The island's whole population will be there to serenade you with local songs and garland you with flowers. This feels France. Here the breakfast baguettes are like the end of the world - which in a

sense it is; it's only just east of the International Date Line, so yesterday goes on

This is the largest of the Cook Islands; it is lush, volcanic, with brightly coloured birds and an overpowering smell of jasmine. A bus will take you around the island; if you want to get into the interior, you can walk to a high point known as the Needle, which can be a nerve-racking trip, particularly after Kiribati heavy rain.

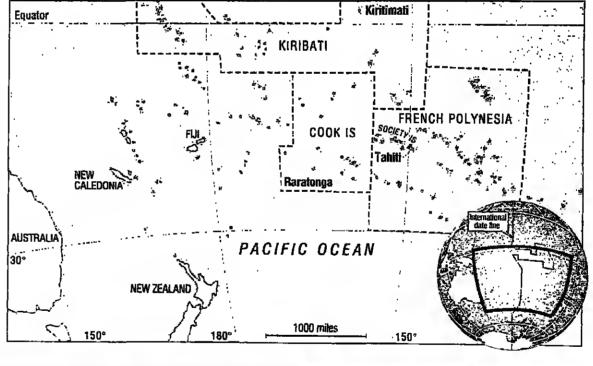
There are plenty of opportunities for

snorkelling and other water sports, but if you want to feel like a real Cook Islander, spend a morning at the cultural village. Here you will discover 101 uses for a coconut, from mosquito coils to fishing nets. If you want to see bow to cook! with it, though, go to the Flametreerestaurant to eat some of the most delicious food in the Pacific.

The local pronunciation, "Kiribas", may tell you that this group of islands was once known as the Gilberts. This is one of the remoter parts of the world, completely inaccessible from anywhere youmight want to start out from. The group totals 33 atolls and islands, including Kirtimati or Christmas Island. The is Tarawa, a wisbbone-shaped conglomeration of coral islands, threaded together on the southern side by a road running along the lagoon. The gaps along the northern shore mean that to get from one end to the other you will have to get your feet wet.

This is the ultimate peaceful retreat, but there is a price to pay for being far from the madding crowd. The simple life can he primitive - the sun and the mosquitoes are vicious, sanitation is basic, and if you get ill, don't expect to find a well-stocked chemist.

The variety of fish caught around the . islands is magnificent, although supplies of other food are limited. Any meat should be washed down with the local toddy - sap from the coconut palm either drunk as it comes, or boiled and fermented for a few days to make it reassuringly alcoholic.



# WEATHER

The British Isles General summary and outlook

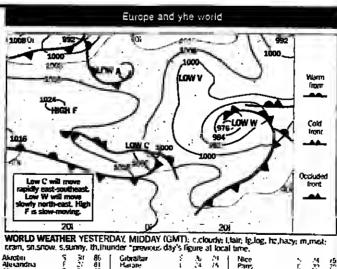
Rain will already be in south-west England at the start of the day and this will quickly sweep east to affect most of England and Wales before the day is over. The rain will become heavy in many parts before easing everywhere during the evening. The bulk of northern England will miss the rain as will Scotland and Northern Ireland but there may be the odd shower in northern Scotland although all of these areas will see some

decent spells of sunshine.

It will be a chilly day across the country with a brisk west to north-westerly wind making it feel even colder. Many parts will be dry and sunny to start the day and will continue to see sunny spells throughout. However, there will be showers in Scotland and these will be locally heavy and prolonged. By the afternoon a few showers may also turn up in northern England and Northern Ireland with the sunshine becoming more limited.

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Sun rises 7:17am Sun sets 6:16pm

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Mcrewide, Birkenhead, Buses

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Temporary lights on Asliton Rd

Closed until January 1998.

traffew near M1 J24. Berkshire, A34 between M4 J13

Navember 2 1997

both ways until further notice.

The Sky at Night 4 3 2 1 0 ARIES

Saturn is in the constellation Pisces and can be seen in the south-east during evenings this week. This chart is for 11 pm BST tonight (11 October)

As the Cassini/Huygens spacecraft sits expectantly on its Tiran tV/Centaur rocket at Cape Canaveral, ready to be hurtled into space next week at the start of a seven-year odyssey, its unsuspecting target - the planet Saturn - stands in full view throughout the night. Saturn was at opposition yesterday. Its position in space was diametrically opposite the Sun's and it lay due south at midnight (GMT). The current distance to Saturn is about 780 million miles. more than eight times the distance to the Sun. Saturn will remain bright and well-placed for observation for some weeks to come. It lies in Pisces, an area of sky devoid of significantly bright stars, Saturn rises tonight at 6.20pm BST and sets in the morning at 6.10am. It will be due south at 11.45pm. Beware confusion with Jupiter, which is brighter, lower and further to the west.

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We see the service of the service of

## The experts said it would never fly

With the largest shed in Christendom and a debt the size of Brazil's, Boeing's staff sketched an outline on the back of an envelope; 75,000 engineering drawings later ... and the rest is the sort of history that comes to life in Seattle's Museum of Flight. Simon Calder reports.

the time

"These men will not be hindered from accomplishing at their best speed the distance which they have to go, either by snow or rain or heat or darkness of night." When Herodotus wrote these words, around 450BC, he was referring to the Persian postal system. Nonetheless, the world's biggest plane maker has pinched the lines to set the tone for its corporate history.

You probably arrived in Seattle aboard a 747 - homeward bound to the city of its hirth. If you were lucky enough to secure a window seat, you may have noticed an extra runway. Busy with executive jets and planes straight off the production line, this is the Boeing test facility. Between it and the Pacific stands a hig. hright huilding, as clean as a new Jumbo. Return your seat to the upright position and stand by for the Museum of Flight. (That's its official name, though everyone calls it the Boeing Museum. The absence of any reference to Boeing's main competitor, Airbus, emphasises that this is a one-company venue.)

If any innovation has defined our epoch, it is surely air travel. Until three years into the 20th century, powered flight was a dream. Yet three years from the end of the millennium, flying has become both humdrum and thoroughly liberating. The average British worker needs to labour for a mere fortnight to fly clean around the world - an achievement which is technologically and socially amazing, but which has become so commonplace that airlines are reduced to competing against each other on the quality of their in-flight films and the width of their stewardesses' smiles. The company that helped bring this about is based a handy 10-minute hus ride from Seattle's international airport. With the small change from selling a few Jumbo jets, Boeing has helped to establish the Museum of Flight.

The American brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright may have pioneered powered flight, hut



after their achievement at Kitty Hawk in 1903, Europe accelerated in the race for the skies. So the first tranche of the museum's chronology is Eurocentric, and reveals secrets such as that the Dutch aircraft firm Fokker was first based in Schwerin, eastern Germany; it moved to Holland after the Second World War.

US civil aviation really took off 70 years ago this month, with the first international flight by an American airline. Pan Am took off from Key West, Florida, destination Havana, Amid the many competing aircraft manufacturers, Boeing made its name with the 247, and its first manufacturing facility was right here, in the carefully preserved Red Barn. Today, it looks barely large enough to assemble an Airfix kit.

Regular, reliable transoceanic travel began in 1939 with scheduled transatlantic flights. However, the two most obvious and giamorous the route map. Instead the flight began in Marseille, hopped down to Lisbon and then across to the Azores before reaching New York.

The first commercial jet flight by a US airline, Pan Am, took place 20 years later, when a Boeing 707 flew from New York to Paris, By this time Britain's disastrous first-generation Comet had suffered a series of fatigue-related crashes. The British retired hurt from the cutting edge of aviation.

The fickle nature of air travel was demonstrated when, two decades later, that same Boeing 707 was pressed into service for British package tourists travelling with the budget airline Dan-Air. It is rumoured that Pan Am tried to huy the 707 back from Dan-Air to put it into its own museum. The British charter airline refused. Both airlines then went bust.

If you have visited the air museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, you will know that crawling all over the aircraft is part of the fun. At the Museum of Flight, the planes are mostly kept at wing's length. Cold War relics such as the B-52 are fenced off. As on the average flight, the intention seems to be to maintain a feel-good, no-fear ambience. So the thousands killed in air crashes hardly figure, nor do the hundreds of thousands massacred in bombing raids. There is mention of a Kamikaze plane, but this one does not indicate suicidal tendencies when applied to air travel. In 1937, the name (which translates as "Divine Wind") was applied to a Mitsuhishi Ki-15, a civilian aircraft that flew from Tokyo to London in 51 hours in 1937,

The museum is not without humour. It reveals that the first 747 simulators were mounted on top of a truck to get pilots used to the extra height of these revolutionary aircraft. The most amusing relic is the Aerocar, a Fifties idea to make a plane that converts to a car (or vice versa). Wings, tail and propeller are bolted on to what looks strangely like an aeronautic Renault 5. It does fly, but commercially the concept never took off.

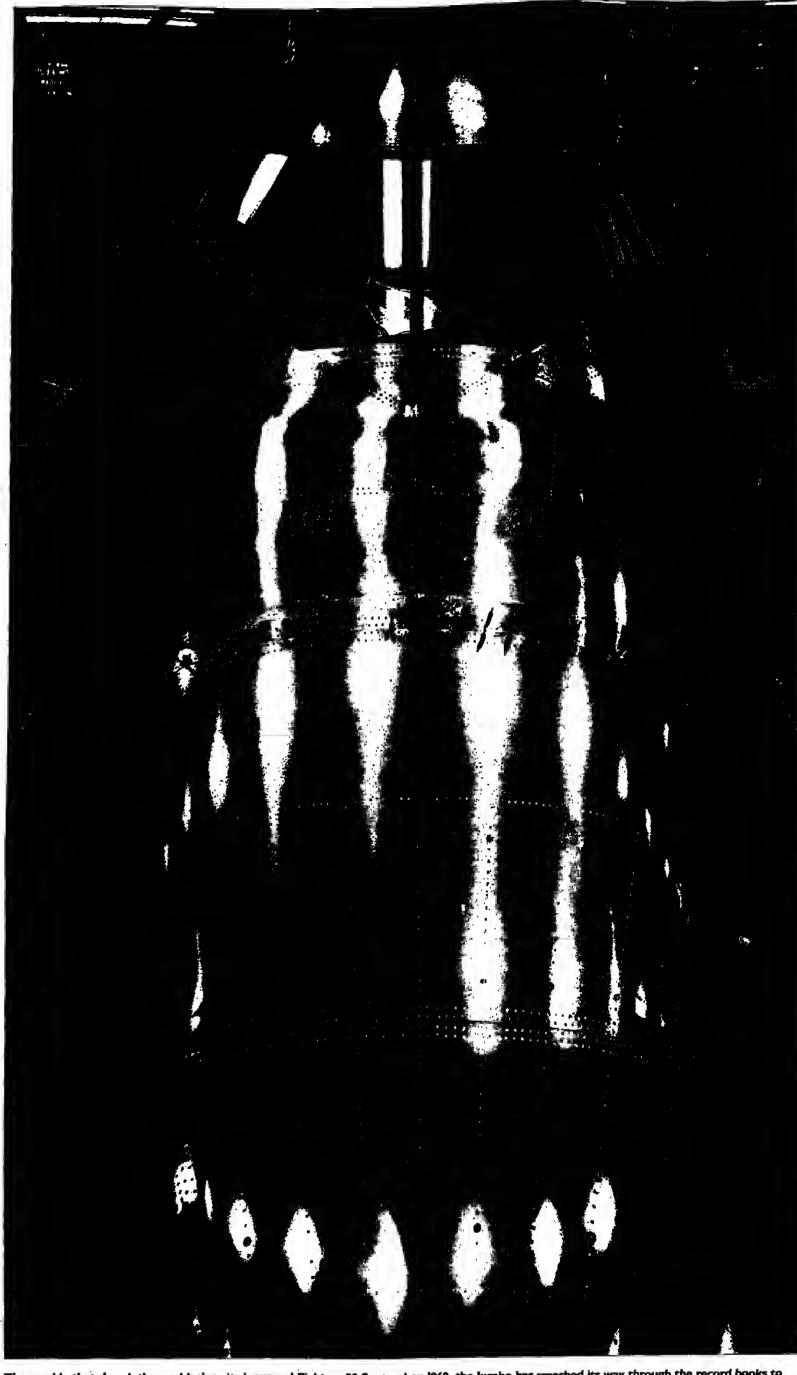
Besides the collection of aircraft (and imposters), the Museum of Flight has a livelier repertoire of films than any in-flight programme. Many of them are techy, Technicolor tearlerkers from the pull-focus school of clichés; the strongest suit is devoted to the exploration of space. "The dream of flight" is a triumphalist yet witty look at the space race, and touches upon the extraordinary spirit of the Sixties, an era in which almost every scientist and engineer appears to chain-smoke.

Early footage takes you through Sputniks to Muttniks, as the early Russian space experiments using dogs were called by Nasa. The Soviet Union won the opening heats of the space race, with the launch of the first manned space flight in 1961 "I looked and looked, but I couldn't see God," Yuri Gagarin said when he returned from his day trip to space. Scientists working for Nasa were deeply alarmed. "When we land on the moon. we'll have to go through Russian customs," commented Wernher von Braun. Facing headlines such as "Reds beat US into space", President Kennedy made his reckless promise to get a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

"We were heroes because we volunteered to take the place of chimpanzees," observes one astronaut wryly. "In my book that doesn't make me a hero." The fact that the Apollo XI astronauts had only seven seconds of fuel in reserve when they landed on the moon in 1969 persuades you that heroism was as important as oxygen for the space pioneers.

Shortly before Neil Armstrong took his small step came the first commercial flight of a 747. A month after the moon walk, Seattle lad Jimi Hendrix terrified the Woodstock crowd with a particularly angry version of "Purple Haze". It's not yet the company song at Boeing, the aircraft maker based in his home town, but it should be - if only for the perfect tag: "'Scuse me while I kiss the sky".

Simon Calder paid £275 for a return flight to Montreal on Air Canada, booked through Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000) and reached Seattle on a Canadian airpass, £199 from AirPass Sales (01737 555300). The Museum of Flight (001 206 764 5720) opens daily; admission \$8 (£5), free destinations, London and Paris, were not on on the first Thursday evening of the month.



The gamble that shrank the world: since its inaugural flight on 30 September 1969, the Jumbo has smashed its way through the record books to become the greatest utilitarian aircraft of all time

## If a kid has a guitar in his hand, it means he don't have a gun in his hand'

The land south of Memphis is at the mercy of a mighty river. Matthew Brace continues his Mississippi series with a visit to the birthplace of the Delta Blues.

We sat out on Panny Mayfield's porch in the warm Southem evening: Joel, Julian, John. Miss Laura, Panny and me. On a similarly fragrant night 70 years ago Tennessee Williams sat here, too. He lived just up the street and knew the owners. and would pop over for dinner and inspiration.

This was Clarksdale, Mississippi, a small town on the Delta. When Southern folk talk about the Delta they don't mean the area south of New Orleans, where the mighty Mississippi empties into the Gulf of Mexico at the end of its

2,500-mile journey. Rather, they refer to a flat pan stretching south from Memphis, Tennessee, to the Civil War battle site at Vicksburg.

The Delta is the home of the Blues, the music that grew out of the slave chants in the cotton fields and later inspired rock 'n' roll and just about every other kind of modern music. I'd broken my Mississippi journey and jumped ship to pay homage to the devil's music. I met Panny, a journalist,

at the 20th Delta Blues Festival in Greenville. We were at the side of the stage. sweltering in 99 degrees of sonpy heat, trying to photograph the veteran harmonica player Willie Foster, who writhed and twitched in his wheelchair as he blow for the crowd. She insisted I go to Clarksdale the next day to see the Delta

- Blues Museum, and stop by her house.

We are beef, pasta and okra stew, drank dark beer and chatted. Miss Laura (Panny's daughter) and John (the museum's curator) rocked on the swing seat; Joel and Julian (work experience interes at the museum) lolled in their chairs. John and I discussed our beloved river. When he is not working at the museum, John runs wilderness canoe excursions for hardy tourists, sleeping and eating out on sandbars and islands.

For him, the Mississippi is a spiritual thing. "I get a feeling of closeness to God and closeness to Nature." he said. "It's always articulating new shapes and forming new meanders." Many older Delta folk

would rather forget the river's force and unpredictability. In 1927, before embankments

were built, the Mississippi flooded spectacularly. Its banks burst and the floodwater formed an inland waterway 1,000 miles long and 150 miles wide. A million people were displaced. So great was the deluge, it forced the Ohio and Yazoo to flow backwards for two days. A 12ft wave swept up the Yazoo, swamping all in its

"You must respect the river." Those words resounded around Mark Twain's head when he was training to become a riverboat pilot. Across town, Evelyn

Turner was opening up the Crossroads Club for a night of beer and Blues. This was an upmarket juke joint. The jukes were boozy. tombledown shacks where upand-coming Bluesmen would play for free. Here, as the

sell your eternal soul to the devil in return for the ability to play faultless Blues guitar.

But in Evelyn's club the jukebox worked if you slapped it hard enough; the sky-blue walls were only partially chipped; the clientele was prestigious. Perched at the bar was Michael James - "Dr Mike" but tonight without his band, the Interns. Next to him, in hlack suit and tie, was Johnnie Billington, a Bluesman on a mission. "Mr Johnnie<sup>r</sup>, 61, now dedicates himself to teaching Blues guitar to young Delta kids.

We cracked open our heers and he told me his Blues survival plan. "A hlack . child growing up on the Delta feels down-sided - crushed, you know. Eighty per cenl of these kids will get in trouble before they get to 18. If a kid has a guitar in his hand it Negro legend went, you could means he don't have a gun in

his hand."

The Delta is a poor, hard place to call home. The Blues are trendy for whites who can do what I was doing - cruise in, enjoy it, and take away a memory to middle-class suburbia. For the blacks, it is all they have. Mr Johnnie knew the

pressures of the Delta, and how fragile the life of a young hlack can be. His mission began with a few kids who would come past his house and hear him playing. Eventually he got a band together and they played a gig downtown in Clarksdale. That event grew into the Sunflower River Blues Festival, now a mainstay of the town's arts calendar, and saved those kids from an uncertain future.

The Delta is home to numerous graduates from Mr Johnnie's school of life. His current band, the Midnighters, tour often,

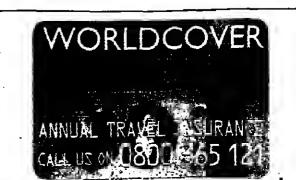
cramming into his ageing motor-home and trundling off all over the state. One of his proudest moments was when he was doing some music workshops at a predominantly white school in Jackson, Mississippi, and got an offer to take a young band to New

"The school thought there was no way it was going to work," he said. "Imagine it: a hlack man, a Blues player, taking four little white kids to New York City for a week.

York to perform.

Ain't no way their parents are going to go for that. But they all did, and we went. We broke down a barrier that

Mr Johnnie was due on stage; I was delaying the jam session. Dr Mike, a former student of Mr Johnnie's in his garage classroom, pointed after his mentor as he walked away. "Now he is a real Bluesman. Takes had news and makes it good. That's the Blues, right there on stage in the suit."



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ple around. "Actually it was sold last week," she said. "They'll have to find me another one now." She was brought up "on the village", in the days wheo everybody knew everybody because they all worked for Lever Brothers. Her father was one of the company firemen. "The village police - they were paid by Levers - were two retired firemen. Mr Ryan and Mr Green. We were petrified of them. Kids these days aren't scared of real policemen, let alone pensioners dressed sible numbers glitter like some sci-fi city, up as policemen."

That explains some of the attraction of Port Sunlight, both to tourists and to prospective buyers (the first houses went on sale to non-Levers employees in 1979). It creates a convincing illusion of safer, more certain days. It still looks like the sort of place where children can run around safe-

> stays secret for long. If your front door warps or a road sign is broken, you still ring Levers' managing agoots to come and sort it out. Until very recently crime in Port Sunlight was someone vandalising your roses, or letting your tyres down, and "Sunlighters" (the villagers) were happy to keep it that way. In the Heritage Centre, among re-

ly and where nothing

productions of the famous Pears posters and to house workers from his soap factory. It a stern advertisement reading "Why Does A Woman Look Old Sooner Than A Man" (I never did find out), there were village trail leaflets for doing your own guided walk. I set off through strangely car-free streets the service alleys behind the houses are wide enough for cars to be lucked out of sight through a sampler of suburban architecture. The 30 architects employed by Leverhulme to realise his dream had a go at everything: Tudor beams, pargetted gables, walls



Photograph: Craig Easton

of brick, plaster and pebble dash. Every for every house were seen as radical town street has a different look and some of the planning? details - bowed front doors, for example. or quaintly shaped windows - are fiendishly difficult to maintain.

Strolling past the Gladstone Theatre (formerly the men's dining room) and Hulme Hall (formerly the women's dining room - and later venue for Ringo's first ever appearance with The Beatles), I found myself unable to believe how life has changed. Was it truly less than a century ago that the male and female soap workers went to work five minutes apart, so they couldn't fraternise on the way, and that girls under 16 actually had their partners for the annual dance chosen by the village committee? Could it really be such a short time since Lord Leverhulme's insistence on indoor bathrooms, front lawns and allotments

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900 or so workers that lived here. There were bowling greens and gardens, an open-air swimming pool, a landscaped dell for picnics. Port Sunlight eveo likes to say that it has its own Taj Mahal, in the form of Lady Lever's Art Gallery, built in memory of Leverbulme's much-loved wife, It staods at the end of a long vista of lawns and roses and houses an eclectic collection of paintings and decorative arts (not to mention a very good restaurant), iocluding the nostalgic Victorian pictures which were used to such effect in Lever Brothers' advertising.

When King George V and Queen Mary laid the foundation stone in 1914 (they did it by remote control, and a light

came on saying "STONE WELL AND TRULY LAID") they stunned the crowd There were also leisure facilities for the by passing through the barriers. "We have come to look at your cottagel" said the King, to the owner of No 20, Bolton Road. Welcome, Your Majestyl' said the stunned inhabitant. There is a plaque there

Things have changed a lot since Lever-

ulme's death. Village houses sell on the open market for up to £80,000 a throw. Young Sunlighters escape manicured lawns and head for naughtier suburbs like Bromborough and the Croft Retail Park, with its multiplex cinema, bowling alleys and nightclubs. After a day in the land of the Women's Helpful League and the Boys'

Then I remembered Mr Green and Mr Ryan, and thought better of it.

For more information about Port Sunlight, contact the Heritage Centre, 95 Greendale Road, Port Sunlight, Wirral, Merseyside L62 4XE (0151 644 6466). Opening hours: 10 ampm in winter, weekdays only, and at weekends as well from April to October.

The Bridge Inn Hotel (0151 645 8441) is the only B&B in Port Sunlight. Midweek, rooms cost £57.50 for a double and between £27.50 and £42.50 for a single. On Friday, Snturday or Sunday nights, n double is £46 and a single £27.50.

Lady Lever's Art Gallery (0151 478 4136) has been recently refurbished. Entry Brigade, of 27,000 trees and 10,000 rose costs £3 for nn adult, £1,50 for concessions; bushes and row after row of perfect hous- and includes entry to other Merseyside gales. I felt rather like being naughty myself. leries for 12 months.

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Sunlight, crime was someone

Sophie Campbell visits the model

village built for Lord Leverhulme's

At night, the industrial sprawl of Ellesmere

Port on the Wirral Peninsula seems both

glamorous and demonic. Lights in impos-

at once focusing and disorientating. Smoke

pours out of funnels and factory chimneys

spout eternal flames. "Home of the Astra,"

shricks a neon sign, as light catches the masts

of ships moored at the Ellesmere Port Boat

Museum and nameless hoots and shunting

village built by Lord Leverhulme in 1888

was, as its breezy, optimistic name implies,

considered to be a model village built by

a model employer, and today it occupies

the middle ground between living com-

There is usually a show home on display

somewhere in the village. When I last went

it was in Greendale Road, where Judith

Smith - representing the local estate agents

was doing her knitting and showing pco-

Liverpool

Port

Sunligh

sounds carry through the car windows.

This makes it all

the more confusing to

wake up the next day

and find yourself in

the cheery toytown

surroundings of

nearby Port Sunlight.

where bricks and

llagstones, leaded

lights and porthole

windows present a

clean, scrubbed face

to the world. It may

be just five miles

away as the crow

flies, but it feels like

a different planet.

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## 48 hours in the life of ... Stockholm

Each week, 'The Independent provides a prescription for the perfect two-day break to the soul of a city. This week, Simon Calder forsakes Waterloo for Stockholm, and couldn't escape if he wanted to.

Why go now?

Control of the state of the sta

Can you hear the drums? In 1997, the Swedish capital has finally become accessible at a sensible price; new, cheap flights make a weekend hreak affordable. But don't hang around: every day until midwinter, the Scandinavian gloom deepens. exacerbated this autumn by losing the 2004 Olympics. And from the New Year, the city becomes European Capital of Culture, so accommodation could be at a premium. Must he funny in a rich man's world.

Beam down

Until this summer, flying from Britain to Sweden for a low fare was as tricky as. say, getting from Stansted to Skavsia. Then Ryanair (0541 569569) solved both problems at once. For £99 plus tax you can fly from the Essex airport to what is euphemistically described as "Stockholm South". A connecting hus covers the 60 miles into town in about 80 minutes, for £11 return. British Airways (0345 222111), Finnair (0171-408 1222) and SAS (0345 010789) have been obliged to trim their fares from Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester to compete; they fly to the main Arlanda airport, balf-anhour north of the city.

Get your bearings

A hus from either airport will drop you at the central hus and rail station, on the most important of Y Stockholm's 14 islands. You are on the western edge of the main commercial district, Norrmalm, where you will end up spending lots of your time. The other attractive landmass is just south of here: Gamla Stan fold lown), an island out of time. The most comprehensively stocked tourist office in the northern hemisphere is half-a-mile east of the station; ask anyone for directions to the Sweden House.

My first visit was spent at the in the 48 hours series, I recommend of the city. If I had to do the same your hotel room - not to save cash. again I would, my friend, but with so much as to experience the social inter approaching (the site closes on 31 October) I recommend instead the Maladrottningen - a handsome you had an alcohol problem, you will old steamer once owned by Woolworth heiress Barhara Hutton and now converted into a "hotel" which

costs around £60 dnuble (book on city. You enter an alarmingly sanit-00 46 824 3600); or the Scandinavian-ised hall where the beer and wine are sterile Scandic Park (00 46 822 9620), squarting squarely on the boy huying condoms, you have to north side of Humlegarden, £90 douhle including an eat-all-you-can breakfast - a critical advantage hereabouts.

Take a ride

Take tram 7 out to Djurgarden, Stockholm's very own national park, (though out of summer the Tivoli funfair looks a little dismal). Take the ferry back to Gamla Stan to sense the resonances of a city which has found harmony between land and water.

Take a hike

... when you land at the old town, through the narrow lanes and elegantly discrect spaces of Gamla Stan. Time your trip to pass the Royal Palace at 12.15pm (on Saturdays; an hour later on Sundays), when a crowd gathers to witness the changing of the guard. Don't be deceived by the number of people present into thinking that Stockholm has suddenly acquired a mass of tourists; most of the audience for this military parade are the families of the servicemen. The honour is shared around the Swedish military on a rota system, so every soldier gets his 15 minutes of fame, Super troopers, indeed.

Lunch on the run

In the opulent district of Ostermalm, the local market looks like Harrods' food hall and sells a zoo's worth of cold cuts from warm-blooded beasts; clk, bear and other non-endangered Nordie nosh. You have never assembled so exotic a picnic.

Cultural afternoon

You have four brief hours, from noon to 4pm, to visit Millesgarden, the home of Scandinavia's most famous sculptor. The tough part is finding it; take the Tunnelbana to Ropsten, then a bus to Torsviks. What sets this place apart from the dozens of other museums in Stockholm is that Carl Milles spent most of his life constructing his own extraordinary epitaph. The garden terraces that tumble down towards the steely water are populated by a large, dysfunctional family of sculptures.

An aperitif

For the first (and probably last) time Bredang campsite, well south west you take an early evening drink in stigma attaching to the Swedish drinker. Even if you've never thought licence - known as Systembolaget. Ten of these are dotted around the Björn and Benny".

kept well out of reach. Like a schoolqueue up and ask the assistant clearly for your chosen poison.

Demure dinner

Stockholm New magazine says the city has changed from a stale mashed potato and gravy outpost into one of Europe's most dynamic gourmet metropolises". That's going it a bit, but certainly my hest meal this year was at Cliff Barnes. There was something in the air that night.

The three surprises about this place are (a) that anyone should name a restaurant after a hit player in an Eightics series such as Dollas; (b) that it would be located in the middle of what looks like a giant sanatorium; (c) that the food should be such exceptional value for money. It's where they play the right music, too; the only reason you can get a table on a Saturday night is that it's a couple of miles north west of the

Sunday morning: go to church Stockholm's citizens still shed tears for their lost humanitarian, Prime Minister Olof Palme - assassinated in 1986. He is buried at Adolf Fredriks church, which poses prettily in the north of Norrmalm.

**Bracing brunch** 

Almost all the city's restaurants and cafés are closed on Sunday mornings. Be first in the queue for the National Museum when it opens at 11am, and ignore the collection of paintings and sculptures in favour of the Atrium restaurant. The 60kr museum admission fee will soften you up for splashing out on a fishy feast.

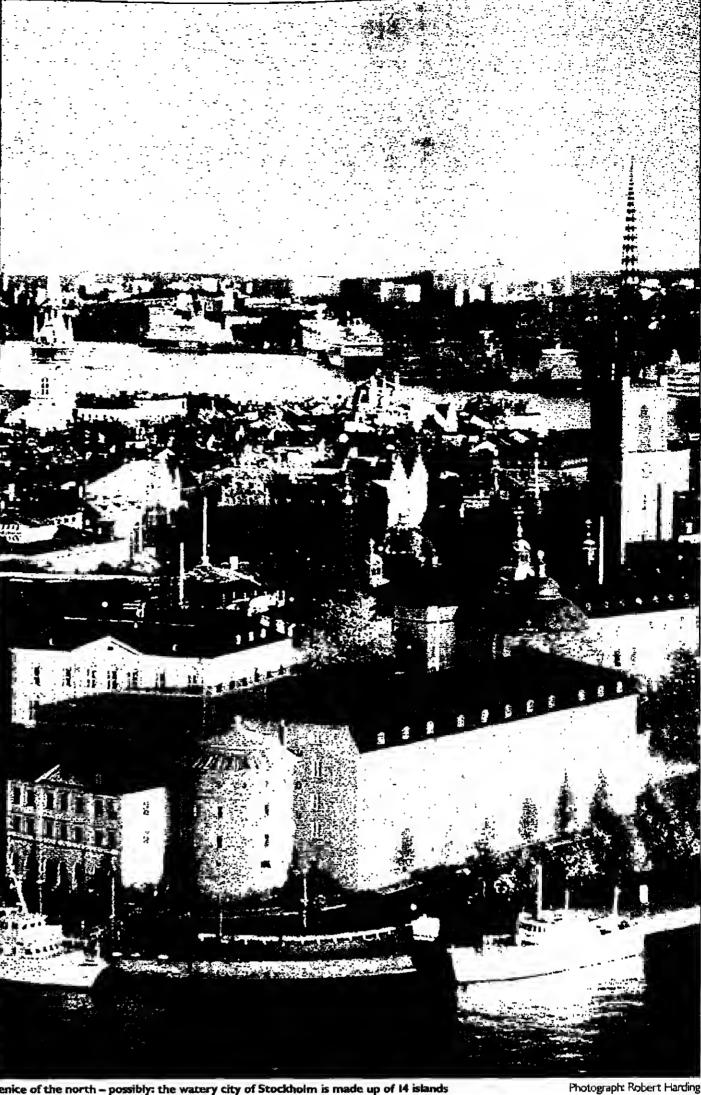
A walk in the park

Stepping just a little further takes you over the hridge to the island of Skeppsholmen. They call Stockholm the Venice of the north. In places it looks more like the Portsmouth of the east, or the Murmansk of the west. But walking around the green spaces of this pocket-sized, teardropshaped isle reveals the capital in its hest light and shade.

The souvenir

A tin of herrings with the brand name Abba, sold in most supermarkets. If the person in front of you grabs the last can, just say, "If you change your mind, I'm the first in line.'

Simon Calder will donate his copy of 'Abba Gold' to the person who spots all the references from Abba songs when you visit a Stockholm off- AND comes up with the best anagram from the 24 letters of "Agneta, Frida,



Venice of the north - possibly: the watery city of Stockholm is made up of 14 islands

## Of all the gin-joints in all the towns in all the world ...

Scientists say that our appreciation of the weirdness of 'coincidences' is flawed; our brains simply have not evolved to cope with big numbers. But Mark Rowe is still awestruck by the way he keeps meeting long-lost friends in unexpected places.

Two people, one hig world, "Of all the ginjoints ... moans Humphrey Bogart, as he spots Ingrid Bergman through a haze of smoke and whisky in that immortal scene from Casablanca. And it might well seem untikely that the Hump and Ingrid charactors hump into each other in an outpost of the Second World War.

A coincidence, you may well think. But most people reading this article have prob-

iday, whether in Newquay, New York or friend in a country of 1.2 hillion people. New Delhi. It may not always be in a ginjoint, but I am a scrial people-meeter, and I am not the only one. Why does it happen?

During my childhood I invariably met schoolfriends, looking as sullen as myself. in tea shops in Cornwall or Skegness while spending rainswept family holidays. But during the last few years I have achieved several satisfying "meets".

After two months travelling around China in 1991, I decided on my last day to go for a cycle ride off the tourist trail on the outskirts of Peking. I wanted to see the 'real China". Instead, along a dirt-track hutong, I met the real Western Europe, in the shape of a friend I had not seen for three years. She had left college with no real plans, and had gone to China to see what turned np. I assume she had hoped it would be something more exotic than me, but for the first

Another example: I once raised the cash for a trip to India by spending two months laying out motorway cones on the M25. One lad who shared biscuits and tea with me during the night shifts was also planning to go to India, and we joked about meeting in a country of 650 million people. Sure enough. as I stumped on to a hus travelling from Agra to Fatehpur Sikri, I was tapped on the shoulder and turned round to see Jim.

"It's all to do with social class," said Dr Susan Blackmore, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of the West of England in Bristol. "The same sort of people are drawn to the same kind of holiday. Travelling through India, you will spend a lot of time in bus stations and on trains and at major sights - the places where there is a high concentration of foreigners.

"We think it is an amazing coincidence,

ably met someone they know while on hol- time I pondered the odds of meeting a but really it's just that our brains have not in. Enthused by finally getting the chance ple you know who you didn't meet there. evolved to cope with big numbers. We are still used to the caveman mentality of small packs of people. To illustrate this, you can ask how many people you need in a room before there is a 50-50 chance of two sharing the same birthday. Most people might say 186-or half of 365-but in fact it is just 23, because that gives you the right number of possible pairs. The odds are lower than you think on such so-called coincidences."

Not always, though. Burma in 1992 remains my greatest achievement when it comes to meeting people in unexpected places. This was just before tourism to Burma expanded - and before I was fully aware of the atrocities committed by the military iunta. In my first five days there I saw precisely two foreigners.

Then, one evening in Mandalay, I was sitting in my hotel's voluminous and silent reading room when a fellow tourist walked

to talk about what we had seen, we started by establishing a few reference points. "What did I do?" asked Victor, I had just started working for the Grimsby Evening Telegraph, I told him. "Well, you've probahly never heard of it but ...

Victor had heard of it. He had been the Grimsby Telegraph's production editor, hut had left the week before I started, in order in travel round the world. And here we were in Burma. No other tourists, just two peoplc from Grimsby, a town which prides itself on its insularity, and whose population views a day trip to Hull as reason to get the passport out. Why go abroad when you've got Cleethorpes, I was often asked, during my three years in the town.

'That is weird, and does go off the scale of odds," said Dr Blackmore, "But it is only one coincidence, and you should think, 'isn't that nice', and remind yourself of the peoto keep it in perspective."

On my return to Bangkok I passed the night in the airport before an early flight home, talking with a man from Guildford who worked, and shared a desk with, my best friend from school; his veracity was established when he complained about the way my friend clinked his cup against his teeth when drinking coffee.

Dr Blackmore again: "The more outlandish the coincidence, the worse we are at being able to rationalise it. Most of us know about 1,000 people to recognise, and by association we have things in common with many more."

So spare a thought for poor old Bogie. Had he thought it through - Casahlanca was, after all, a vital bolt-hole for those fleeing the Nazi advance - he would have stayed in Europe, and saved himself the heartache of meeting up with Ingrid again.

#### GREEN CHANNEL

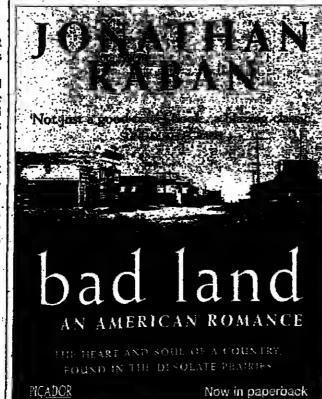
We're all familiar with the three Ss - Sun, Sea and Sand. But isn't there a fourth? No, not that. News from around the world seems to indicate it's probably Smog.

Tourists are fleeing from South-east Asia because of it. A friend of mine visiting Paris last week was choking on it, despite the city's attempt to cut down pollution by banning even-numbered cars on Parisian roads. And our own London Tourist Board is also concerned about pollution levels in our tourist-packed city. How can we deal with this problem? Have an "integrated transport policy", says the London Tourist Board, which this week launched its vision for the year 2010 encouraging the use of pub-

lic transport, Other European cities have been taking an organised approach to transport for a while now. In Vienna, the trams whisk you gracefully through the city, and passengers are, incredibly, trusted to

buy and stamp their own tickets on every journey. Not surprisingly, Switzerland's public transport is famous for running like clockwork. And in Copenhagen, tourist maps indicate numerous locations around the city where you can extract a "city bike" from a cycle stand on the pavement for 20 kroner. You can then cycle to your chosen tourist sight, park your bike at the nearest bike stand and retrieve your money. Choose from a bus, a train or another bike to take you back again. Smog, in Copenhagen, is not an issue.

Sue Wheat



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## What's Serbian for 'Piste'?

Where will you be skiing this season? North America or Italy may be your choice, but some national tourist boards are keen for you to try somewhere new. Stephen Wood explains.

Almost a year ago, I stopped to enquire about skiing in Serbia at its national tourist board's stand in the World Travel Market, London's annual shindig for the trade. "Sure, you can ski in Serbia," said one of the staff, as if nothing could be simpler. She gave me a map of the country, and explained how to apply for a visa: then she went back to folding leaflets.

Organising a trip to Serbia is easier now because it is one of the new destinations in this year's brochures. Thomson is offering holidays in what it calls "Yugoslavia's best-kept secret", the resort of Kopaonik, about 175km south of Belgrade. It has had much more encouragement from the Serbian tourist office than I got; as a result it can charge as little as £275 a week in late January for self-catering accommodation, with a learn-to-ski package, equipment hire, and a lift pass thrown in.

The big six ski operators add new destinations to their brochures for most seasons, and after a good '96/97 (and with the pound still strong against most other currencies) they are particularly bullish this year. So apart from the organic growth in currently popular countries - a whole slew of packages to resorts in north America and Italy has been introduced - and the dramatic return of Switzerland owing to the favourable exchange rate, the brochures have also expanded geographically, notably into northern and eastern Europe.

Why do the operators keep adding fresh snowfields? Andrew Russell, of Inghams, says simply that "we aim to match customer demand, and there are some customers who will always want to go somewhere new". But for Andy Perrin, marketing director of Crystal, going into new areas is some-

thing of a crusade: "It makes a statement about the kind of company we are," he says. "Our customers are people who chose to do something more exciting than lie on the beach for 8 week. The hig tour operators, for whom skiing is only a small part of their business, tend to concentrate on a few established resorts where the volume is high. That's the bankers' approach to ski operating; it's not ours."

If Perrin is blowing his own trumpet, he has a right to do so. The most remarkable innovation in this season's major brochures is Crystal's packages to Gudauri, in Georgia. The resort, at 2,123m in the Caucasus mountains, is a place for serious off-piste skiing: the little piste map in the brochure shows just five ski-lifts, but seven landing points for helicopter shuttles, and the holidays are priced (from £1,200 up to £2,200) according to the length of the skiing descents - with a maximum vertical drop of 20,000 metres a week.

We featured Gudauri in our brochure several years ago," says Perrin, "and a couple of hundred customers booked to go there. But we had to cancel it because of political unrest and fuel shortages: the flights went via Moscow then, and no one could guarantee that there would be enough fuel to continue on to Tbilisi." Now that the area is stable, and BA is running direct flights to Tbilisi, Perrin has been able to bring Gudauri back into the brochure. "I've never forgotten it ... the Caucasus is unlike any other ski area. It's breathtakingly beautiful; and when you are up in the mountains you can see no sign of mankind - no villages, roads or pylons."

Perrin says Gudauri is aimed at

Before your ski holiday, make sure that you visit an artificial ski slope.

skiing lesson here in the UK will allow you develop a feel for your

equipment and can save a day spent in the resort.

(For more on skring lessons, see page 8)

Skiers use unfamiliar equipment which may initially seem cumbersome - a

SKI TIP

the key factor rather than cost"; going to the other extreme. Finnish Lapland - which both Crystal and Inghams have introduced this year - is, he says, for "people who don't want to ski every day". Inghams's Andrew Russell admits that "the downhill skiing there is

skiers "for whom memorable skiing is of other attractions - including San- Britain in December but averages a ta Claus. We sold out the Christmas period very quickly, and we've found that even in January families still want to visit Santa.\*

Introducing a new destination is always something of a gamble. Norway, which Inghams also introduced this limited, but it's an exotic area with lots year, "hasn't worked as well as we expected", says Russell. (Asked whether it would be in next year's brochure, his reply was a measured "I don't know".) But the risks are reduced when the operator has support from the local tourist board. Russell says that Finnish Lapland been under consideration for a couple of years, but Inghams is offering it now because of an approach from Finland - which gets an amazing 15,000 visitors to Lapland from

paltry 1,500 a month for the rest of the year, and is therefore eager to appear in package-tour brochures.

For its venture into Serbia, Thomson has also had local support, including a weekly charter flight laid on by the national airline, JAT. Primarily a beachholiday company (and presumably the main target of Andy Perrin's barb about the big tour operators' approach to skiing), Thomson is now developing its ski range. This year, it has dramatically increased its packages to north America (thanks to Monarch's twice-weekly charter flight to Denver, which Thomson instigated), and has already seen sales increase by 45 per cent.

the other end of the market, with Bul-

Sri Lanka

garia. "Don't ask me why, but Bulgaria is a popular destination for British skiers," says Ian Simkins, Thomson's ski marketing manager. He thinks that "Serbia offers a better-quality product at a comparable price. I can't deny that there is an 'awareness' problem about Serbia; but on the other hand there is political pressure on the country to make our skiing holidays succeed. Croatia has direct charters, and so has Slovenia if we withdraw, Serbia will be the odd one out." The tourist organisations, he says, are under a lot of pressure, which obviously benefits us. Because it means

they're very flexible in helping us," Flexible and helpful? Times change. The Serbia stand may be worth The Serbian packages compete at another visit at next month's World

Thomson goes to Serbia: the resort of Kopaonik is, the tour operator maintains. "Yugoslavia's bestkept secret"

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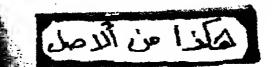
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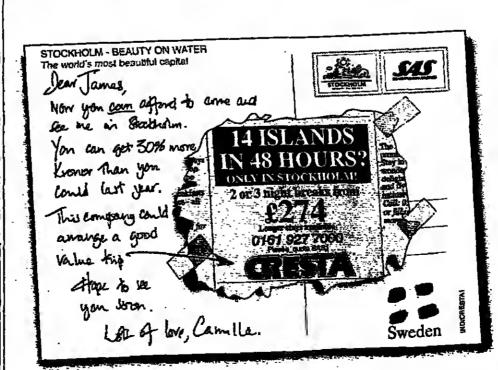
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## The powder room

You don't need even need to venture outdoors if you want your children to learn how to ski. At the Tamworth SnowDome, you can slide around on a carpet that's whiter than snow and possibly a little more powdery, as Brigid McConville found out.

Despite the name it's not a dome, and, technically, it's not natural snow either but who cares? This is still the only place in Britain where you can ski on cold white powder all the year round. At this time of year it is packed with families getting a hit of practice before taking off for skiing holidays, so if you want a lesson make sure you book well in advance.

There is a row tow on one side of the slope, and on the other a travelator, which is like an escalator without steps. The snow slope is 150m long and 30m wide, which means you can get a decent run from the top, or take the tow rope half-way up for a more sedate descent. The grooming machine comes out four times daily to keep icy patches to a minimum.

As part of a big, modern leisure complex, SnowDome has all the romance of a skating rink; no natural light, constant Muzak and fruit machines in the bar/café. On the other hand, the artificial environment of the ski slope means no biting winds, a constant temperature of 2-4 degrees centigrade and near perfect snow conditions.

Brigid McConville, a freelance journalist, took her children Maeve, 12, and Arthur, nine, to SnowDome In Tamworth, where they had a skiing lesson.

Arthur: When I started off I thought that it was a bit tricky and I wasn't really enjoying it. It was quite hard, and I kept sliding downhill. The back of my skis would go wonky, which made me fall over, and I thought, "I can't do this." But that was because I wasn't bending my knees, and

snow-plough it was really cool. Then we got to go on the rope low and

that was fun, although I didn't think it would go so fast. I learnt to do loads of turns, and now and then I fell over. Sometimes I got my skis crossed going downhill, and I didn't know where they were. Falling didn't really hurt because it was quite soft snow. It looked like flour. Sometimes I'm really determined, and

when Maeve zoomed past me I really wanted to do that too, but I realised I would



Maeve and Arthur bend their knees at the SnowDome Photos: Newsteam

when I got the hang of it and learnt to hardest and after a while I was quite good at it, and I got better and better.

When I went really fast I didn't know what to do; my legs were in the wrong place and I crashed into the barrier at the bottom. One time I skied over the edge of a snow-board that had crashed - that was quite scary. I hurt my ear a bit because I slipped when I was on the rope tow and caught my ear on the rope.

Peter, our instructor, was nice, and the lesson was helpful as I'd never been on skis before - except once on a dry slope, which

By the end I could do a bit of turning to the left, but not to the right. I could snow-plough and I could go down a steep hill. I've got quite a long way to go to be The deal a good skier, hut I thought I was doing quite well for my age.

I wouldn't like to go too many times; il would get boring.

Maeve: I was very impressed when I saw the SnowDome; it looked really fun. The skiing lesson was a bit boring at first hut l understand the instructor has to make sure you can do stops before you go to the top.

To start with we had to put on one ski and scoot around; then two skis and shuffle and turn circles. Then we stepped sideways up the slope, which was hard are also available. work, but it was fun going down again touching your head, shoulders, knees and toes. We had a really good teacher.

I wanted to get on to the tow rope but when I did I found it was pretty hard on SnowDome is just off the A5. There is amyour arms. It kept going down to the ple free parking.

need more lessons first. I was trying my ground, and I had to try to pull it up. Once I slipped off, which hurt my legs, and I couldn't get out of the way of the person behind me, which was pretty scary. But I didn't fall down once.

> I'd already learnt to turn on a sid slope in Scotland, but I learnt to do a hit more and got to go quite fast - though not too fast, as I don't like being out of control.

> It's good that there were snow-boarders there as well - mostly teenagers wearing strange hats - because it's something

> The snow was very, very realistic. It was snow, wasn't it? I'd definitely like to go again, every week, although I'd settle for every month.

SnowDome is at Tamworth Leisure Island. River Drive, Tamworth, Staffs, For details about sessions ring SnowDome reception on 01827 67905, or call 0990 000011 for lesson bookings (it is best to call several weeks in advance).

Prices range from £14 (adult) and £9 (junior) for one hour's ski/snow-board session mid-week, to £18 (adult) and £12 (junior) at weekends. Group ski lessons cost up to £20 (adult) and £14 (junior) whereas snow-board lessons cost £22 (adult) and £17.50 (junior). Private lessons

How to get there: by Irain go to Tamworth station; taxis from the station to the SnowDome cost about £2. Or, by car, take the exit from M42 on Junction 10, the

#### ARE WE **NEARLY THERE?**

Literary days out for children

The World of Beatrix Potter (01539 488444) at the Old Laundry, Bowness-on-Winderin provides an undercover walk that leads children through different village and woodland scenes to meet life-size figures of Beautia Potter's characters. There is also short film about the writer's life, and a video wall to introduce, the stories. Open 10am-4pm, adults. £2.99, children £1.99.

At nearby Hawkshead, the Beatrix Potter Gallery (01539 436355) displays 100 or so original illustrations from the stories. The collection is housed in what were once the offices of Beatrix Potter's: solicitor husband. Open until 2 November, 10.30am-4pm. Adults £2.60, children £1.30

The Bronte Parsonage Museum (01535 642323) in Haworth, West Yorkshire, contains the Bronte sisters' furniture and personal belongings, re-creating tho atmosphere of their family home. Exhibits include their earliest writings, their clothes, and Emily Bronte's writing desk, with its contents as she left it. A visit will give children the opportunity to join the Angrians, the junior branch of the Bronte Society. The Angrians encourages young interest in the writings of the Brontes through competitions, poetry and story writing, and by organising occasional workshops in Haworth. Membership costs £5. The museum is open 11am-4.30pm. Adults £3.80, children £1.20, concessions £2.80.

The Nene Valley Railway (01780 784444), at Wansford station, near Peterborough, is the home of Thomas, named after The Reverend Wilbert Awdry's Thomas the Tank Engine. On bank holidays and half-terms children can ride behind Thomas on his own hranch line which passes through a "haunted" tunnel. At other times visitors can see him at the station, and enjoy a day out travelling by steam train. There are more than seven miles of track through the picturesque Nene Valley. An adult rover ticket, giving unlimited travel for a day, costs £7.50; a child ticket costs £3.50. Services operate on : Sundays from mid-February. weekends from Easter to October, Wednesdays from May and some mid-week services in summer.

The Shrewsbury Quest (01743 243324). Shrewsbury, offers adults and children the chance to take part in a medieval mystery, based on the Brother Cadfael books by . Ellis Peters. Cloisters and a garden planted with herbs that would have been present in Cadfael's time . provide the backdrop to the quest. As well as hunting for clues, visitors can make an illuminated manuscript or practise calligraphy. There is a Young Questor mystery for children to gather clues to make a medieval rune. The restaurant has meals such as the "Abbot's lunch" to enhance the 12th-century atmosphere. Open daily, 10am-4pm. Adults £3.95. children £2.50, under fives free, and concessions £3.20.

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## A Hardy showing of Wessex folk

Tess of the D'Urbervilles' comes alive at Dorchester's museum - as do a smugglers' den and a riddle book. Fiona Macoulay unravels a few surprises.

An enormous mask with cow horns and goggly eyes is the first thing to surprise ynu in the galleries of Dorchester County Museum. This is the Ooser, a pagan creature, his body draped with cow skin and sackcloth, whose role in Dorset folklore was to frighten people.

The galleries are the latest project of Bremner and Orr Design Consultants. creators of the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery in Aylesbury. Their brief here was to display the finest Thomas Hardy collection in the world, along with smaller collections of lesser known Dorset writers such as John Meade Falkner and William Barnes. They needed to make them appealing to children, without excluding the literary enthusiasts.

This exhibition is not for toddlers, but for children who can read small-print books for themselves, Teenagers and those a hit vounger will find plenty to interest them - and adults, too. Bremner and Orr have used striking props to hring the collections to life.

Hardy had a great love for the old ways of the countryside and descriptions uf them weave their way through his work. In The Mayor of Casterbridge he de-

scribes a skimmity ride, which is brought to life in one of the displays. Models of a husband and wife who were accused of mistreating each other would be tied hack-to-back on a donkey and paraded through the streets. Some of the musical instruments and kitchen hardware that might have been used by the accompanying procession to create as much din as possible are shown, along with contemporary drawings and ac-

counts of skimmity rides. Hardy was not unly a successful writer: he was also an accomplished ar-National Trust) is the house he designed for himself near Dorchester: the galleries

reduced prices. Open 9.30am-5pm Mon-Sat.

After you've had your fill of literary Dorset, sample some of the county's

Dorchester. There are always fresh flowers on the pine tables and, in winter, a

real fire adds to the welcome at Sue Collier's charming establishment, tucked

away down a narrow lane off the main shopping street. Everything on the

clotted cream (£2.25) – is available all day, and virtually everything, including

some 20 or so ice creams, is home-made. High-chairs and children's drinking

mugs are there for younger customers, who can have smaller portions at

From Egon Ronay's Guide 'And Children Come Too ...' (Bookman, £9.99)

menu - from traditional English breakfast (£3.70) to scones with jam and

edible offerings at Potter In (01305 260312) on 19 Durngate Street in

PIT STOP

grounds, which further stimulated his interest in Dorset's ancient history.

There are displays about the women in Hardy's life and the characters behind the books, in particular The Mayor of Casterbridge and Tess of the D'Urbervilles. A touch-screen computer offers up lots of gems, including an interview with Julie Christie on the set of the film of Far from the Madding Crowd.

One of the most interesting characters among lesser known writers in the galleries is William Barnes, a great friend of Thomas Hardy. A Victorian chitect. Max Gate (now owned by the renaissance man, he was a teacher, poet, antiquarian, priest and linguist (with a working knowledge of 60 Ianhave a reconstruction of his study. guages). You can sit at his desk and look There is also a replica of the huge Neo- at a model of him in the odd, archaic lithic sarsen stone that he found in his dress that he always wore. Other aspects

of his life can be explored on a a computer, complete with recordings of his songs (including "Linden Lea") and poems in Dorset dialect.

Children too young for Barnes's octry or Hardy's novels will find the perfect introduction to Dorset writers in Moonfleet, a ripping yarn by John Meads Falkner, about a boy, John Trenchard, who discovers, in a smugglers' den, a che to the hiding-place of the pirate Blackbeard's diamond. A large panel illustrates John trying to hide from the smuggiers among the rats and coffins. Beside it is a barrel where you search for the clue in a secret compartment.

Younger members with a checky sense of humour will also enjoy being introduced to the Dorset tradition of riddle-making. There's a riddle book to look through - one example, for instance, reads "Under the water, over the water and never touches the water. What am I?" (A woman crossing a stream with a pail of water on her head.)

Here you can follow clues to various objects in the galleries. All those which are answers to clues are clearly marked, so if unravelling a riddle proves too difficult, you can do it the other way round and fit the object to a riddle.

Dorset County Museum, High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset (01305 262735). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, adults £2.35, children ond concessions £1.20. family uckets (two adults, two children), £6.50-

# 9/GARDENING مكذا من ألاصل



The plants that come in from the cold

From dahlias to geraniums, now is the time to prepare for frost. But which warmweather plants can you leave to brave the winter outside. and which should you lift and store

There are still some exquisites who sneer at dahlias, thinking them gross and vulgar. But now that they have appeared in full, shining splendour on the front of the latest edition of the glossy Gardens Illustrated, surely their apotheosis is complete? Like aspidistras and giant marrows, they have a touch of the music hall

indoors?

about them, and even their most ardent devotees have to admit that there are some sulphurously evil yellows among the dahlia tribe. But there are also some gorgeous terracottas, such as the swirling. sunny 'Hamari Gold' and the neat, rich flowers of 'David Howard', set against dark brouze foliage.

I can scarcely remember a year when dahlias have looked better. September, with its still, sunny days, suited them perfectly. There were no high winds to snap them from their supports, no heavy downpours to melt the petals into mush. The beautiful dark-leaved 'Grenadier' is the best thing in our garden at the moment. It has the same foliage as the red-flowered 'Bishop of Llandaff', but the flowers are double, beautifully formed and without the Bishop's distracting eye.

As anyone who listens to Gardener's Question Time knows, there's a splendid mystique attached to dahlias: the disbudding, the lifting, the storing, the dusting with flowers of sulpbur. It all sounds so reasonable, but with us the storing tends to be followed by the things GQT doesn't talk about: the shrivelling; the eating by mice. These kinds of problems forced us to reappraise the purist approach, and now we leave the tubers in the ground, well mulched with beech leaves.

There are disasters associated with this course of action, too, but not so many as when we used to lift dahlias. There were some exceptionally cold spells last winter place until planting-time next spring. and we lost three plants, including the fine, spiky red cactus dahlia 'Alva's Doris'.

But leaving dahlia tubers in the ground 'Brandysnap' dahlia is an option only if you live in the relatively to themselves in a frost-free situation such or break them off and pot them up sep-Photograph: mild south or west of the country. Any day as a conservatory, geraniums never be-arately? My instinct is to leave them be Neil Holmes/GPL now the dahlia roadshow is going to be come dormant. They just go on growing, until spring.

First, cut down the blackened stems, leaving about 6in intact, and ease the tubers gently out of the soil with a fork. Shake off any soil - lifting is much easier if the soil is relatively dry - and label the tubers as you lift. By next May, when exactly the same and, without labels, colour co-ordination will be a lottery.

Stand the tubers upside down to drain any moisture away from inside the hollow stems. They should dry off within a fortnight. Then trim off the stems and stack the tubers in wooden apple boxes lined with newspaper. When the box is full, cover the tubers with compost, chipped bank or Vermiculite that you have dampened very slightly. Stack the boxes in a dry, cool and frost-free place. Set mousetraps nearby. I find chocolate a good bait for mice.

Dahlias are not the only plants that, in cold areas, need special treatment to get through the winter. Perennial tropaeolums, nasturtium-flowered climbers such

#### **ANNA PAVORD**

as Tropaeohim tuberosum 'Ken Aslet', also grow from tubers that will rot and melt if they are left in the ground through a severe winter. The tubers are yellow, marbled with purple, much more interesting

The trumpet flower is red on the outside, yellow inside, held elegantly on a long stem. The leaves are good, too, greyishgreen and lobed. In fact, the only problem with this climber is its tender disposition. But its home is South America - Columhia, Ecuador, Peru - so it is not surprising that it doesn't like our winters.

When frost bas knocked back the foliage, cut off the dead stems at the base of the plant, clear them away, and lift the tuber carefully with a fork. Brush off as much soil as you can before drying it off gently in a warm place such as an airingcupboard. Then clean up the tuber, getting rid of any last bits of soil or dried-off root before storing it in a dry, frost-free

borrowed time, but bere you need to act like bantam chicks under the mother fore the first frost, rather than after. Left

brought to an abrupt end by frost. What If they are growing outside in pots, you do you do then if you live in a chilly area? have two options: either overwinter the whole plant, or take cuttings and overwinter those rather than the parent. If you've got room you can do both.

If you want to take cuttings, do it hefore you lift the plants, choosing bealthy side shoots and cutting them just above you come to plant, all the tubers will look a leaf joint. A cutting about 3in long is ideal. Choose shoots with no flower buds if you can. If you can't, trim off the flower buds along with the lowest teaves. Then trim each cutting to just below a leaf joint and stick all the cuttings round the edge of a 5in pot of compost. Do not cover. Let the pot soak in a saucer of water until the compost is damp but not saturated. Keep the cuttings somewhere light and frost-free over winter.

> Keeping the plants themselves is a bulkier business, and the method you use depends on the resources available. If you've got a light porch or conservatory, you can just bring the geraniums in, still in their pots, and overwinter them undisturbed. Cut down on the watering, so that the plants just tick over, otherwise they will get very hig and leggy. Take off dead leaves and flower heads which might otherwise turn mouldy.

> If you don't have that option, lift the plants before the frost gets them, shake the soil from the roots and cut the stems down to about 4in. Get rid of any leaves that are left on these stems. Then cut back the roots by about a third. Line an apple box with newspaper and half fill it with old compost (the contents of a used Growhag are ideal, if you have one) or coir. Stack the cut-down plants in the box, close but not quite touching. Tip some more compost round them and firm it gently down. Water the compost and leave it to drain, before storing the box somewhere light and frost-free.

> When the cut-down plants begin to resprout, you can use the new growth to make more cuttings. Then, when frost-free times begin to loom again over the horizon, you can pot up the plants and give them more encouragement to grow.

But that all seems a very long way away. Meanwhile, I've got another overwintering problem to solve. The front border is edged with clumps of fat, fleshy, succulent echeverias, as big as cabbages. Somehow, I have to ease these out of the ground and get them into pots for the winter, but without breaking any of their juicy, spoonshaped leaves. And what am I going to do Geraniums are also now growing in with the baby echeverias that are clustered

#### WEEKEND **WORK**

Finish planting spring bedding plants such as wallflowers, polyanthus and forget-me-nots. These last make an excellent undercarpet for tulips, especially the dark mahogany 'Abu Hassan' or the lily-flowered 'White Triumphator'. Water the plants in well. September has been very dry in most parts and wallflowers, generally uprooted from open ground for sale,

will need help in settling into new quarters. Clean up the ground between strawberry rows, getting rid of weeds and unwanted plants that have rooted themselves. Mulch between the rows with well-rotted compost or manure. Lilies are best planted in early October as soon as this year's growth bas died down. The problem is getting hold of them. It suits suppliers better to disb them out in spring. The martagon lily is a hardy, lime tolerant basal-rooting species that will thrive in sun or shade. Plant the bulbs about four inches deep and nine inches apart on a sprinkle of sharp sand to deter underground slugs.

Mulch in spring with compost or leaf mould. The ordinary martagon has dirty purple flowers with ginger anthers, but there is also a lovely white form. L. pwenaicum is another basal rooting lily tolerant of lime, with greenish yellow flowers spotted with black.

Gather late ripening apples and pears and store them in a cool, dry place, you can keep them in polythene bags with a few holes. I stick to wooden trays and newspaper.

Think about planting more fruit trees. The best specimens are likely to be grown in the open ground and will be lifted for delivery after leaf fall, usually from the first week in November. Cordon-trained apples are ideal for small gardens and make good screens

between one part of the garden and another. Cut back the dying stems of herbaceous perennials and compost them. Do not cut back penstemons. These should be left until March. Cutting back will encourage young growth which could get clobbered by frost.

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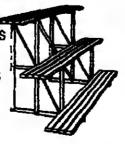
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#### **CUTTINGS**

Derek Longden, of Worthing, writes in response to my piece about places to sit in the garden (Independent, 12 July). "I was dismayed to read you have covered your new sitting-out space with beach pebbles. I believe that the foreshore is owned by the local authority and that therefore it is no more acceptable to collect pebbles for one's terrace than it would be to take plants from the public gardens or to steal books from the library ... On noting your success, readers who may not be fastidious about their sources of supply, will be inspired and encouraged to do similar work on their own property ... I should be glad if you would please warn your readers accordingly."

I am at fault for assuming that readers would not take the phrase "beach pebbles" as literally as Mr Longden. No. I have not been shovelling up the Chesil foreshore. The pebbles were delivered in sacks from our local gravel merchant. The technical description for the stuff we used is 10/6 grade pea gravel, available at £3.65 a 40kg sack.

Zooming up in a lift recently, I met Chris Brickell, editor of Dorling Kindersley's trio of essential reference books, the latest being the fine A-Z Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants (£55). He was off to China, plant-bunting. Plenty of good plants there, he said, that gardeners elsewhere bave yet to set eyes on. But it's more of a challenge now to find plants that are both unknown and easy to grow

outside their natural habitats. A new book by Brenda McLean, a Fellow at the University of Liverpool, tells the story of an entrepreneur who operated in the golden age of plant collecting: Arthur Bulley (1861-1942) was a Liverpool cotton broker who paid legendary plant-hunters from Sikkim, China and Burma.

Bulley, a philanthropist and active Fabian, established many of these rare plants in his garden on the Wirral, which was always open to the public. Later, he established a nursery to supply as cheaply as possible the plants that he grew in the garden. It is now the University of Liverpool's Botanic Garden.

Bulley, who subscribed to the first Everest expedition, was adept at getting his collectors into the most difficult parts of the world. These included Bhutan, where he sent the young Roland Cooper. Bulley wrote direct to the Maharaja of Bhutan, requesting permission for Cooper to collect in his country, telling him it was "a service to mankind to get the fine things there must be on the Bhntan Himalaya into the gardens of the world". The Maharajah assented and got an Inverness plaid rug for his troubles.

Ms McLean's book, A Pioneering Plantsman, draws on contemporary journals and gives an insight into the great collectors. It is the latest in the series of books on the collectors, sponsored by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and the Stationery Office who publish it, at £29.

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## 10/RURAL

## Red alert

A report from the World Wildlife Fund highlights the fact that slack management of deer is resulting in the destruction of acres of Scotland's forests. But that is not the only bad news: the now rutting red deer is diluting itself, reports Daniel Butler.



Photographs: Christopher Jones (above) and Dennis Avon/Ardea (nght)

As the final stages of the red decr rul come to an end, Highland keepers are shaking their heads in sorrow. It looks almost certain that yet again, many of next year's calves will be bastards, the result of chance matings between native red hinds and sika stags, originating from the Far East.

The result of the matings between the native "hill" reds and the smaller, der between pure and hybrid. In western greyer sikas, is unpredictable, but

tends to be a creature halfway between the two in size, with a mixture of the two species' behavioural characteristics. No ooe is quite sure of the full imof doom warn of dire consequences.

Interbreeding presents both practical and emotional problems. On a pragmatic level, sika are more damaging to forestry: naturally preferring woodland to moor, browsing at a more damaging height, and, being much shyer, therefore difficult to cootrol. In addition, because sportsmeo pay handsomely for trophies, were sika genes to reduce antler size, it could affect a vital source of revenue in one of Europe's last wildernesses.

On the more emotional level, hybridisation risks threatening Scotland's distinct "hill" deer, which are smaller and more at home in open ground than other European reds. The problem stems from the sika's original introduction last century, but it was not until recently that the bidden dangers emerged. Now an increasing oumber of the Scottish red deer herd are heing found to bave "alien" DNA. "The two species are distinct," explains

Edinburgh University's Dr Josephine Pemberton, who is halfway through a three-year study of Scotland's deer. "Sika are much smaller, and are spotted in summer. In addition they behave and sound very different." At present, she says, Scottish reds can be divided roughly in two, with the A9 marking the borareas such as Kintyre, crosses are com-

mon: to the east there is little or no hybridisation - so far. Yet she adds that after countless releases of imported animals by Victorian landowners trying plications of the process, but prophets 10 "improve" their sport, it is doubtful how pure hill deer are in reality.

"It's oot just sika which have mixed with the herd," says Andy Rinning, director of the Deer Commission. "For over a century there have also been introductions of related species from Eastem Europe and America."

The dangers hesetting Scotland's deer are not unique. "Crosses occur naturally in the wild and there is evidence to show that occasionally it may be important io species' development," explains Mike Bruford, head of the conservation genetics group at Regent's Park's Institute of Zoology. In addition, the injection of fresh genetic material can prove vital for flagging populations. For example, in 1900 Britain's red kite population was reduced to 15 individuals. This was recovering painfully slowly until the Twenties, wheo a solitary female was blown in by storms from Germany. The fresh genetic material revolutionised breeding success and today numbers are healthy.

But while scientists agree that natural stances of genetic mixing are perfectly acceptable, most feel that a distinction should be drawn between these and the results of man's intervention. A good example of the latter is the ruddy duck, originally imported from Carolina, which oow threatens Spain's white-headed duck. "The ruddy is much more ag-

gressive, and drakes drive off white-head males to mate with their females," says the RSPB's Chris Harbard. "The offspring look like oeither pareot, but they're fertile and carry on the hybridising process, so within a few generations we could lose the whitehead altogether."

Mike Bruford agrees that hybridisation is an all too efficient way of losing a species. He explains that the worst problems come when one species has a numerical advantage over another and swamps it, leading to the rapid loss of pure genes.

In Ireland, in a matter of decades, County Wicklow's red deer have blended completely with imported sikas to produce a herd that is neither one nor the other. But, says Dr Pemberton, there is no evidence this will happen in Scotland: "Given the choice, hybrids tend to stick to their own dominant genes," she says. "So where possible sika 'types' breed either with pure sika or other lookalikes, rather than red deer."

In any event, it is now too late to stem the tide. "It is questionable whether we should waste time and effort trying to prevent the inevitable," she says. "What we can do is prevent damage in areas where we really can make a difference. For example, we should ban any deer releases in the genetically-isolated Outer Hebrides and all

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NATURE NOTE

On warm evenings a few bats may still be seen fluttering through the dusk round old buildings and trees; but most have already moved to the caves or disused mine-shafts in which they will spend the winter, and the rest will depart any night now. The mechanics of bat hibernation are still poorty. understood. The shortening of daylight hours seems to trigger

changes in the creatures' metabolism. In the last few weeks female greater horseshoe bats, for instance, have swiftly accumulated a mass of body fat, almost doubling their weight, from about 17 to 32 grams.

> Their winter quarters may be up to 40 miles from their summer breeding-grounds; but once a female has chosen a site, she sticks to it for life. Hanging upside down, she will hibernate in a torpor for a week or 10 days at a time, but then emerge at night to fly about and get a drink. Only if really cold weather sets in after Christmas will she stay put for longer periods; and if need be her

store of body fat will carry her right through until early May.

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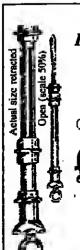
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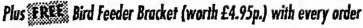
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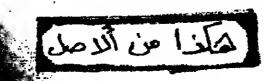


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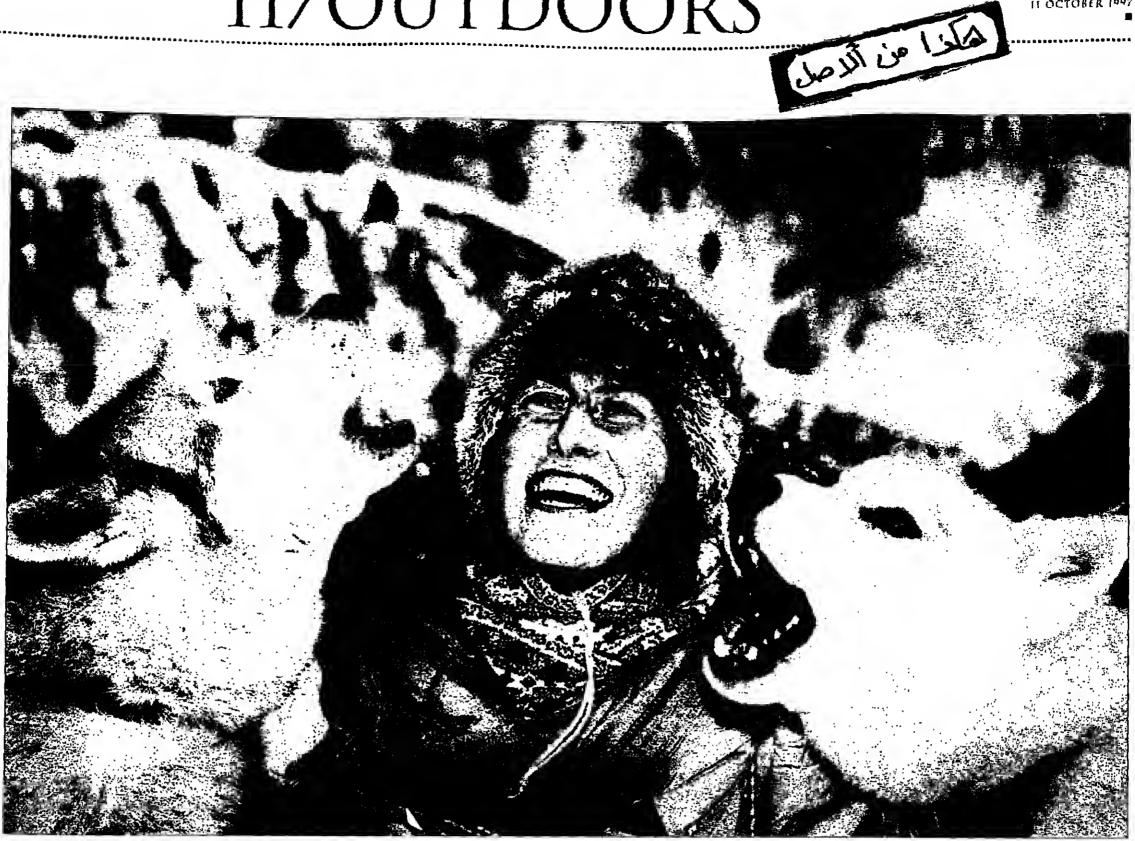
Classified Advertising

continues on page 16.



Into the frozen wilderness: Wendy Smith with two of her Alaskan huskies Photograph: Steve Hill/Newsteam

290 202



### Back from the grave – and into the land of ice

No one has ever driven a team of dogs 6,000 miles across Alaska. Now a young woman is to attempt the trip, to celebrate her recovery from cancer.

If you want to see courage personified, take tinued to run a two-mile circuit round a take a look at Wendy Smith, who on Tuesday near home. At first she could manage three set off for Alaska to make the first complete transit of the North American con- she could do only tinent under husky power. A strongly-built two, then one. Fi-Englishwoman of 35, with an attractively gentle voice, she is now at Bird Creek, near Anchorage, training her dog teams for the 6,000-mile marathon; but the fact that she is alive at all represents an extraordinary triumph, as much of determination and will power as of modern medicine.

In 1986, at the age of 24, she joined the army and rose to become a captain, assistant adjutant of 49 Field Regiment, serving in Germany. Then, in 1988, she was diagnosed as having Hodgkin's disease cancer of the lymphatic system. Swelling lymph nodes filled the space between her beart and lungs, and pushed up into her

Until that moment she had been prodigiously fit, running for the army, caving, playing badminton, and devoting six to eight

ly she was faced with a ghastly regime of chemotherapy, for which she travelled back and forth between her home in Swindon and the Queen Elizabeth military hospital in Woolwich.

In an attempt to defy reality, she con-

**DUFF** 

HART-DAVIS

nally, half-way round the first lap, she collapsed. "I got real jitters there by the water," she recalls, "hecause I had

to admit to myself, for the first time, that my body was in hig found it inspiring that another immensely trouble." She was on the ground for 20 min-physical person had survived the disease. utes, "having a good think", before she managed to drag herself home.

Like countless other cancer patients, she found that the treatment made her feel sicker than the disease, and reckoned the ordeal the worst she has ever had to face: "I lost my hair, my appearance, my fitness, my energy. I had moments of terrible depression." The nadir came when agonis-

hours a day to physical training. Sudden- infection in the gut: for a week her family thought she was dying, and so did she.

She began to dream about her own futhe grave, and I kept making these quips

about what a dreadful hat so-and-so had on."

palling that there were moments when she felt that dying would be the easiest option. The "first chink of light" came when she read the jockey Boh Champion's account of how he had heaten cancer and fought back to win the Grand National She

After nine months a sudden, unexpected recovery set in, and doctors pronounced her cured. Scared that the cancer might return, and that she might not have much time left, she resigned her commission six months early and joined Outward Bound as an instructor.

To find out whether her body would do the things she wanted it to, she ran a half-

courses, and travelled widely. She led treks in the Borneo jungle, and, becoming fasneral: What surprised me was the fact that cinated by TE Lawrence, followed one of I was so cheerful, I was looking up out of his routes across the southern Jordanian desert on camels. The journey took place during Ramadan, and she and her com-Nevertheless, her regime became so appanion neither are nor drank during daylight hours. She recalls, "Climbing mountains in that climate, without drinking, produces a steep learning curve."

In the past three years she has led treks in Morocco, the Pamirs, the Caucasus and Nepal, gaining the confidence to set up ar expedition of her own. It was a chance sighting of buskies on television that decided her. The dogs seemed to her "to combine adventure with speed, excitement, the wilderness and winter scenery - also to give the chance of an intimate relationship with another species".

She first went to Alaska in the winter of 1993-94, working for free at a kennels where she fed, mucked out and repaired equipment - but also, from her first day, trained huskies. Next winter, 1994-95, she went out again, this time to train young dogs for Rick Swenson, five times winner of the Iditarod - the premier long-distance busky race. Swenson has ultra-modern kennels. ing abdominal pains were diagnosed as an marathon within a month of leaving hos-housing 250 dogs, at Two Rivers, west of

her own, with a small pack, to a cabin "in the middle of nowhere". With no road, no communications, no electricity and no her charges the hard way, in temperatures often 40°F helow zero.

Now, for her great trek, she has been sold or given 20 Alaskan huskies by some of the world's leading mushers (drivers). After 10 days' training in Alaska, she and her four-man hack-up team will drive eastwards in their truck, covering much of their route in reverse.

The starting-point of the trek will be Searsport, on the coast of Maine, whence they will set off on 15 November. The first part of the route will be on dirt tracks, with Wendy - the sole muster - driving from a three-wheeled rig huilt for her by apprentices at Delta Training in Birmingham. As soon as enough snow is lying, she will transfer to a sledge, which will be much faster. The Canadian police have stipulated that she must have two snow-machines out, one ahead and one behind, to warn other snow-machiners that there are dogs on

Whenever no trail exists, one of the team will forge ahead, breaking a new track. At Funds are still needed to finance the expenight the whole party will camp on sites dition. Call 01865 863391 for further details.

pital, went on a couple of mountaineering Fairbanks, but Wendy chose to go off on snow-shoed out beside the trait or road, After a slow start. Wendy is hoping to average 50 miles a day, and to complete the route in six months. Because she will need water, she learnt to look after herself and a lot of fat, to keep out the cold, she will have every excuse for indulging her one serious gastronomic weakness - for mayonnaise and hacon sandwiches.

"We won't hit true wilderness till we get to Whitchorse, in the Yukon," she predicts, "That's when the real adventure will start. We'll travel the final 2,000 miles down the Yukon River, on the ice, and the temperature may hit 70 below." From previous visits she knows that the Yukon is "some mammoth river". a mile wide, with hanks in places 400ft high.

As she left England, she professed herself undaunted by the physical hazards ahead. The only thing that frightens her is the possibility that she may fail.

But she has every intention of succeeding. Naturally, she wants to become the first person to make the crossing; but, far more than that, she is determined to show the world that cancer is not invincible, and to lighten other sufferers' darkness by putting out a stunning image of survival".

### Treasure of the birch forest

This autumn, conditions are particularly good for mushrooms. Daniel Butler offers a guide to finding the tasty cep, or 'porcino'. Photograph: John Miller/GPL

Britain's woods at this time of year are full of gold. Across the country wild fungi, worth £15 a kilo wholesale and up to £40 retail, are thrusting their way through pasture and leaf mould. Given this largesse, there for the taking, one might expect a miniature repeat of the Klondike. Certainly that is the situation across the Channel, where every weekend the woods are alive with townsfolk collecting fungi of every conceivable shape, size and colour, both for their own use and for sale.

Things are different here, however. It seems that the British have an innate distrust of wild fungi. Most of us believe the only good mushroom is one which sits safely on the supermarket shelf, neatly wrapped in cling film and blue plastic.

This is pity, because Britain's mild, wer climate is ideally suited to many of the most delicious species of edible fungi, and this autumn conditions are particularly good. September, for example, saw a record crop of ceps (I picked well over 50 kilos in four one-hour forays). This was just the "first flush", and the Octoher rains should trigger another hurst of activity.

To take up mushrooming, essentially all you need is a good field guide. Novices, though, almost always make the mistake of collecting far too much. The result is that when they try to identify the two dozen species in their basket, the process takes hours, with the majority of the haul remaining in the "not sure" pile. Of those identified with absolute certainty, the chances are that none will be edible.

A far more sensible introduction is to search for just one particularly edible type. At this time of year this might be chanterelles (on gently sloping mossy banks heneath oak, chestnut or beech), parasols (in rough unimproved pasture) or, best of all, ceps (along damp woodland edges and hedgerows).

The last, Boletus edulis – sometimes room. Not only is it one of from a small area can be phenomenal.

known by its Italian name of porcino - is the perfect beginner's mushthe best-tasting species of wild fungi, but it is relatively common and completely unmistakable, and when the ceps begin to "flush", the crop

Although ceps vary tremen-

dousty in size (from a couple of inches to more than a foot in beight), even beginners should have no trouble with identification. Most obviously, they have spongy gills totally unlike those of any shopbought hutton mushroom, which are white at first before gradually turning yellow. As for shape, they have a bulbous cap sitting on top of a thick, smooth stalk which is pale and streaked faintly with fawn (avoid any hint of red). Meanwhile, the colour of the cap can vary from a pale café-au-lait 10 a dark chocolate. There is only one mushroom, the brown hirch bolete, which can seriously be confused with a cep, and this is also edible (if not so good). The mushroom is normaily found along

> woodland edges and bedgerows. According to the guides, it prefers deciduous trees, hut my best spots are all on mossy banks helow Norway spruce plantations. Disused railway lines are another excellent place to begin looking - as

"There's a hit of a knack finding them at first," says Clive Houlder, Britain's only fulltime wild mushroom

are golf courses.

gatherer and dealer. "But once you've spotted your first, you're away - it doesn't take long to tune your eyes m."

Those who don't yet have the knack, however, might take comfort from a fungi course. Many wildlife trusts run autumn forays - two- or three-hour walks with a local mycotogist who will point out interesting species and give lessons in identification. For more information, contact your local wildlife trust or the national headquarters in Lincoln on 01522 544400.

Such forays rarely focus on edible species, however, and many conservation bodies frown on widespread harvesting - particularly on nature reserves. More can be learned on one of the growing number of residential courses around the country. usually based around the skills of one expert. One of the most experienced of these is Dr Patrick Harding, a mycologist at Sheffield University who runs weckend courses.

Typically, these start on a Friday evening with a slide show and lecture. Next morning there is a talk on collection techniques, then a threehour foray. After lunch, the results of the hunt are laid out in family groups, followed by a talk on edible species. On the Sunday he concludes with a talk on the folklore associations. For details, send an sae to Dr Harding at 36 Marshall Road. Sheffield SS OGN.



### Go with the flow

If the idea of abseiling down a waterfall appeals to you. try canyoning. Eric Kendall reports on a cold, wet, terrifying sport ... that's totally addictive.

The rope is taut, water is tugging at your ankles and the cliff edge under your feet is like greased Teflon. There's only one way to go, and that's down.

Welcome to canyoning. If you ever fancied the thrills of caving while still being able to admire the view, this is the answer. Simply follow the course of a small river, coping with natural obstacles along the way, from boulders and deep pools to rapids and waterfalls.

- The inevitable cold of the water takes your breath away, but it's the first hig drop that concentrates the mind for all but habitual abseilers. Being lowered off a cliff is even worse when you're shin-deep in water, near a thundering torrent which will soon engulf you.

And that's the nub of it: this is a full-on experience. No extra batteries or qualifications are required, beyond the most basic level of fitness through granite and splitting mounand a willingness to step into the void. For novices, all the tricky stuff is dealt hie, even obvious. with by the guide.

When the water hits, you can't think of anything else. Having a riv- are ideal for canyoning. Spain is also er empty its contents down the back riddled with good terrain and has of your neck while you dangle belp- the perfect climate; the UK's smallrating, violent. Now the unlikely of appropriate river, which is no bad process of erosion carving gorges thing for first-timers. Wales, the



tain ranges becomes comprehensi-

Given their combination of meltwater and vertical drops, the Alps

Lake District and Scotland all provide opportunities. Wherever you go, a hit of rain upstream can change conditions from tame to suicidal in a few hours, so be prepared to change your itinerary at short no-

With a hit of experience some lessly on a rope is shocking, exhila- er mountains mean shorter sections routes will he within reach of competent climbers, whose abseiling abilities will come in handy - con-

trolling your own rate of descent rather than being towered, sack-ofpotato-like, is not only more rewarding but ensures the guide can't leave you spinning on the end of the rope for everyone's amusement, driven like a turbine by the relentless flow of hattering water.

But for most people canyoning will remain a professionally accompanied adventure. Fast-flowing wa-

ter and tricky terrain make safety the right on submerged boulders will reparamount issue, and then there's the required equipment: wetsuits and climbing gear in an alpine gorge make you look like Jacques Cousteau on the set of The Eiger Sanction; in milder climates lightweight, fast-drying outdoor clothing

is adequate; climbing gear is still essential. Footwear is critical: staying up-

are required for carryoning, but you must be prepared to step. into a void Photograph, Nigel Shepherd

White riot: no qualifications

sluice you along. You still appreciate the forces involved, hat this time they propel you rather than batter you. You don't even need to be a good swimmer to go for a walk in a river - so go and find out what water's really made for.

Who to carryon with Nigel Shepherd (01286 872393) guides canyoning trips at home and abroad.

Craft na Caber (01887 830588). Kenmore, Scotland runs a local trip. Canyoning in Britain is often mixed with other activities - biking, walking, climbing - since the sections of river that can be tackled are rel-

atively short. Various operators run adventure sport holidays that include canyoning in the Alps and Spain: Tall Stories (01932 252002); Alp Active (01223 568220); Plus Travel (0171-259 1099); High Trax (01433 670186).

Climbing gear - belmer, harness, ropes, etc - available from climbing shops. Given the battering this gets, it's probably best to go with an organised group where equipment is

supplied; the same goes for wetsuits. For footwear and clothing, try specialists such as Ellis Brigham (0171-240 9577) and Snow & Rock (0171-937 0872). Water sports boots are ideal; trainers will do. Lowe Alpine's Dryflo T-shirts and long johns have extra warmth and quickdrying properties. Lightweight waterproof clothing won't keep you dry but will reduce wind chill. Avoid cotton clothing - it stays wet.

#### **GAMES**

#### BAWN O'BEIRNE RANELAGH DON'T JUNK IT - USE IT

For readers new to the "Don't Junk It -Use It" concept, this is the column that justifies your decision never to throw anything away. For older readers, the first line of today's design may help to explain what I have been doing for the past few

1. First, drink 172 bottles of wine. having taken care when extracting their corks (ideally with a "hutler's friend" type of cork fork), and assemble the corks.

2. Drill holes through their centres. 3. String the corks together in lines. As corks come in different sizes, check to ensure your lines are all the same length. Leave a little space between each pair of corks and put a figure of eight knot at each end of the line to stop the corks stiding off.

4. Using fresh pieces of string, tie double half-bitches between the corks to tie the lines together.

5. Untie the figure-of-eight knots and attach a string border to the outside of the mat, as plain or fancy as you wish.



bathmat, foot massager and excuse for wine-drinking

#### WIN A SCULPTURE PUZZLE

Computer-scanned and sliced, Sculpture Puzzles, from the Really Useful Games Company, really do bring a new dimension to jigsaws. The latest addition to their catalogue - timed to coincide with the release of an enhanced version of the Star Wars video, is a dark and threatening bust of Darth Vader, as seen above, nearly completed by Emily Shield of Ascot, encouraged by her father, David.

We have one copy of this attractive Sculpture Puzzle to give away to the reader who can come up with the funniest anagram of "Darth Vader Sculpture". Entries should be sent to: Sculpture Puzzle,

Saturday Games, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, closing date 20 October.

#### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

duce the day's pain levels signifi-

cantly. Water sports shoes such as

Salomon's Exydro provide fierce

grip and drain freely once out of the

water. Drybags are essential for

cameras and other precious cargo.

available, cutting out or skirting

round the sheer drops and making

the most of natural aqua-zooms to

Gentler variations are, of course,

Richard Meade, 58, triple Olympic three-day event gold medallist

Dogs like to play games, and if it's all done in a light-hearted way, then they thoroughly enjoy it. Our terrier puppy's game is to come and grab your hand, then she wants to be chased until she rolls over and lets you dribble her like a fontball. It's great fun.

We have a lurcher and a lahrador, and their games are very different. Lurchers love chasing things, which is what they're hred to do. Ours is perfectly normal in daylight, but at night she behaves like a mad thing, and given the opportunity she'll rush out of the door in full cry. They're poachers' dogs, used for working after dark.

The last one we had was a gentle dog, but if any of the family were having a water-fight or something, be'd get quite steamed up about it, and you had to be very careful that he didn't try to join in and bite somebody, which he'd then very

much regret; and which we'd rather regret too. Labradors are wonderful with

children, and do not mind being clambered over, but I'm careful not to play silly games with ours because she's got a serious joh of work to do. If you have gun-dogs, it's important to keep that side of things separate, and do nothing that in any way conflicts with their job as retrievers.

If you're consistent in your approach to dogs, then they respond tremendously well and will understand the difference between work and play. The analogy hetween children and animals is useful: both want to feel confident and secure and to have a structure to their lives, so it's important not to make fools of them, or do silly things that undermine their roles. But they must bave fun.

Stray and unwanted does and cats may be handed in at the Dogs' Home Battersea at any time (0171-738-8759).

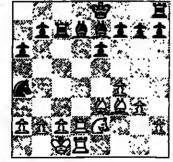
#### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

Michael Adams has been having one of the best performances of his career in Tilburg over the past couple of weeks. He has, in the past, scored some fine first places in events of mixed strength, hul his undefeated score of 6<sup>1</sup>/2 points from 10 games in Tilburg, in a field that includes the world's top two players and full supporting cast, is outstanding.

In the 10th round, Adams improved his standing with a quick win against the top French unpretentious choice of opening led some observers to believe that he was willing to settle for a quick draw, but his early exchange of queens left him with a slight, nagging pressure that Lautier was unable to throw

Generally, if White enters an endgame in this type of Sicilian position, he does not want his pawn on f4 where it may be a target, or at least weaken White's potential control of the central white squares. On this occasion, however, Adams had appreciated some delicate features of the position.

After 8.Nxd4, his threat of Nh5 persuaded Black to play a6, after which White's development of his bishop to g2 put the hlack Q-side under pressure. The crucial moment came with 17.Ne2 (see diagram), unblocking the d-file and preventing Black from castling. Happy that his bishop was at last free to 11 Bg2 Nxe4 advance without being captured 12 Bxe4 Nc5



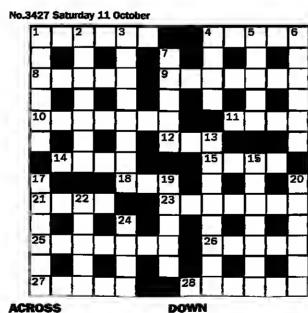
by the knight, Lautier rushed out with 17...Bb5? (any of Bf6, Bc5 player, Joel Lautier. Adams's or Bc8 would be betterl and found bimself in trouble after 18.Bd4!

> The double threat of 19.Bxg7 or 19.Be5 forced 18...f6, when 19.b3! ted to acute embarrassment. After 19...Ne5 20.Bxc5 Black must lose either a pawn after 20...Rxc5 21.Bxb7 or a rook after 20...Bxc5 21\_Rd8+.

> Lautier tried to muddy the waters with 19...Bb4, but Adams ended with a clean kill. 23...g6 24.Bxf6 or 23...Ke7 24.Bc5+ is fatal.

White: Michael Adams Black: Joel Lautier 1 e4 c5 13 Bf3 Bd7 2 Nc3 e6 14 0-0-0 Rc8 15 Rd2 Rc7 3 f4 d5 4 Nf3 dxe4 16 Rhd1 Na4 5 Nxc4 Be7 17 Ne2 Bb5 18 Bd4 f6 6 d4 cxd4 7 Qxd4 Qxd4 19 b3 Bb4 20 bxa4 Bxd2 8 Nxd4 a6 9 Be3 Nd7 21 Rxd2 Bxa4 22 Nc3 Bc6 10 g3 Ngf6 23 Bh5+ resigns

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD



Horse's pace (6)

Fruit (5) Light amplification de-vice (5) Doubter (7) 10 Sculpture (7) 1t Mait (4)

12 Trec (3) 14 Banner (4) 18th century queen (4) 18 Health resort (3) Cereal crop (4) 23 Adult (5-2) 25 Mosque tower (7)

26 Change (5) 27 Recess (5) 28 Short sight (6)

Cotton cloth (6)

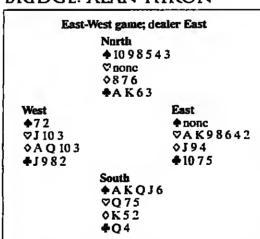
Breathing aperture (7) Personal ornaments (8) Drink (4) Proportion (5) Sailing vessels (6) Custom (5) Hard wood (8) Uninterruptedly (3-4) Widespread (6) 19 Gemstone (5) 20 Greek city state (6) Costume (5)

24 At liberty (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: t Belle, 4 Eving (Belving), to Jupiter, t1 Later, 12 Coypu, t3 Spaniel, 15 Cute, 17 Cider, 19 Reign, 22 Guts, 25 Batsmen, 27 Tacin, 29 Timon, 30 Unarmed, 31 Acct, 32 Nylon, DOWN: 2 Empty, 3 Lettuce, 5 Yalta, 6 Netting, 7 Eject, 8 Tryst, 9 Droll, 14 Pert, 16 Urge, 18 Isthams, 20 Estuary, 2t Abate, 25 Undue, 24 Study, 26 Mango, 28 Carnen,

#### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



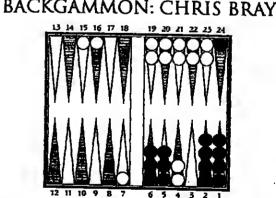
This deal proved a valuable addition to my stock of hard tuck stories. South planned the play intelligently, but he was misled by an even more intelligent defence.

East opened Three Hearts, South overcalled with Three Spades and North raised directly to the slam. West led !J against Six Spades and declarer ruffed his three losing hearts on the table, coming to hand each time with a trump.

Prospects did not look good: East, marked with IA,K, could hardly hold #A as well after his pre-emptive opening. However, South saw that he could bring pressure to bear on West if he held four or more clubs as well as #A. South played off his last three trumps. If West had come down to four clubs and #A alone, declarer planned to lead a low diamond from hand to establish his king.

Thinking ahead, West saw the danger. He had already parted with #3 nn the third trump and his next two discards were carefully chosen. He threw 22 and followed with #Q. Convinced that West had started with five clubs and that #A was now bare, South lcd #2.

To his chagrin, he lost two diamond tricks and found that he could have taken four club tricks for his contract.



At first glance Black's position here does not look as if he can take a double from White, and in the chouette from which this position was taken, three of the team passed when doubled. One brave man took. He promptly escaped his back man with a 65, and White missed the shot and bad to pass the subsequent redouble. But who was right?

Black has two things in his favour. He leads in the race by 51 pips and he still has a four-point board. However, if he can't escape his back man, the racing lead will become meaningless and his fragile home board will quickly deteriorate - be may even be forced to expose a second blot. There are many sequences where White will have lost his market by his next turn, so the double here is mandatory.

Has Black got enough winning variations to give him a take? His plan is to escape his back man and not get hit. On each roll he will have a 30 per cent chance of throwing a six and escaping from White's home board. If he basn't escaped within three rolls he is likely to find himself either behind a six-point prime or on the bar facing a closed board. When White moves a man from his 21-point into the outer boards, Black can gain time by pointing on the remaining man, or by picking and passing (hitting and moving the blot to safety).

The answer to all of this is that Black will in fact win from this position 30 per cent of the time, giving him a reasonably comfortable take. If the spare man on his five-point were on his two-point he would have a borderline take, and if both the spare men on his five- and six-points were on his one- and two-points he would then have to drop. The flexibility provided by those two men in the original position turns out to be critical. This is an excellent benchmark position for "one man back" problems - file it for future.



## An eye for an eye

To help turn holiday snaps into Magnum masterpieces, Andrew Hosson (above), a professional behind the lens, brings the range of courses for amateurs into focus.

It's a task that usually takes only a fraction of a secood, yet the results of taking one photograph can be magical. Sometimes, even the memory of a lost photograph can evoke a multitude of emotioos. I'm lucky enough to earn a living taking pictures, but for some it's a hobby they just want to be better at.

on a local paper, I was asked to teach a six-week evening course, I had no previous teaching experience but I quickly found out what my pupils really wanted. They didn't, of course, inteod to photograph war, celebrities and semi-naked girls. They didn't want to be professional photographers. And they weren't interested in carrying around heavy equipment. They wanted a photograph to look like they thought it did through the viewfioder. They wanted pictures of their families and friends that wouldn't induce groans of "Oh no, here we go again, hurry up". And they wanted to be on holiday, or oo a day out, and take pictures that would serve as more than memory joggers. -

My own advice is fairly straightforward. For landscapes, first of all take your picture of the view, theo move to a different position and try again. Get down on your knees or try to get a bit of extra height -stand on a rock, perhaps, or a chair. Take the view with plenty of sky, theo try it with hardly any. Shoot lots and

For a portrait, check that the settings on the camera and flash are correct before asking your subject to hold still. If you spend a lot of time messing around with knobs and dials you'll eod up with a picture of someone looking bored and fed up. My golden rule is that it doesn't matter what else is in focus as long as the subject's eyes are sharp. If you're taking pictures of childreo, get down to their level.

Lastly, when you get your pictures back from being developed, pluck up the coorage to throw away the ooes that aren't any good. They'll only gather dust and get in the way of your best achievements. If you get back from holiday with just a few excellent pictures, then show them off - and them only.

And these days you can learn how to take better pictures by actually going oo holiday. From Wales to the Peruvian rainforest, photography holidays come

in many shapes and sizes. Phil Parish Photography (01945 585052) in Wisbech has one- and two-day workshops for complete novices (with use of a black-and-white darkroom). Prices range from £45. Accommodation is available nearby and there are some facilities for disabled people.

Acorn Activities, of Hereford (01432 830083), offers a two-day course, with an on-site studio, processing facilities and "use of the latest equipment". As well as the disciplines of landscape and portrait, the course also covers "dramatic action" photography. Tuition costs £100 and there is a choice of nearby farmhouse or hotel accommodation, from £22 and £32

HF Holidays, based in Loodon (0181-905 9556), will Many years ago, while working as a photographer take you to areas of outstanding natural beauty across the country (some walking is involved here). In the evenings discussions are held with knowledgeable and enthusiastic "leaders". Prices start at £320 for sev-

> The Field Studies Council has several ceotres in England and Wales, concentrating mainly on landscape and nature photography. The council also runs an underwater week in Pembrokeshire in August, a black-andwhite course at Flatford Mill in Suffolk aod. intriguingly, a course in photographing fungi in Shropshire. Prices range from £250 per week, full board. Weekeod courses are also possible.

> The same organisation also offers tuition abroad, for those with a little more experience and larger budgets. The overseas programme has more specialised teaching and concentrates on wildlife. Destinations include the Alps, the Pyrences, New Hampshire and Spitzbergen. Last year's 18-day trip up the Amazoo was priced at £3,980, while a fortnight in the Peruvian

Photo Travellers (01483 425448) in Godalming operates holidays "designed by photographers, for photographers". The programme varies annually, featuring destinations "from the Azores to Zanzibar". Prices range from a modest £495 for a spring break in Cyprus. to the rather deeper pocketed £3,295 which will give yoo access to the wildlife of the Falkland Islands.

None of the companies featured here had hardand-fast requirements for equipment. Liz Ballard, travel director of Photo Travellers, said "Some people come with compact cameras, and others with masses of lenses, it makes oo difference. We try to help them see a potential picture that they wouldn't otherwise have noticed. The equipment isn't that important."

Photographers with masses of experience - your tutors and possibly your fellow holidaymakers - can make that pleasurable 125th of a second last you a lifetime. You'll have a holiday to change the way you see your



Seal, photographed by David Sandison: for portraits, it doesn't matter what else is in focus, so long as the eyes are sharp

### Where the riverbank is wallpaper

If it's peace you're after, consider the village of Kelmscott, in the upper reaches of the Thames. Clive Fewins explores the muddy source of William Morris's inspiration.

We were not expecting to be confronted with skies of East Anglian proportions in a corner of Oxfordshire. However, this was the rather remote corner of the county near Lechlade, where it meets Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. The roads are sparse here, reflecting the feo-like nature of the countryside, and the fields are large and flat.

The area was even more maccessible in William Morris's day. The great arts and crafts pioneer had seen what he called "the old house by the Thames" in a dream, and eventually made Kelmscott Manor his country home for the last 25 years of his life.

We set out on our walk to try to imbibe some of the qualities of this quiet stretch of countryside, which Morris referred to as his "earthly paradise". Kelmscott village is a collection of a few cottages and farmhouses. Most of them enclose a large central area of paddocks, closes and what are now back gardens, all surrounded by a straggling circular lane. And at the far corner of the village is Kelmscott Manor, a few yards up a metalled track leading to the River Thames. There are no shops.

ple sustenance, as we were to discover at the end of our walk.

We parked near The Plough and set off along a marked track. We passed two cottages on our left, then the track met a field, at which point we turned sharp left along a field path, again clearly marked, that led directly to the Thames.

Be prepared for a surprise here. The first small footbridge is over a drainage channel that one might at first mistake for the stripling Thames. At the far end of the next field a far grander sight awaits you - a new and rather splendid footbridge that spans the river. It is of ample height, so that the cabin cruisers that frequent this part of the river in summer can pass beneath it.

We did not cross the bridge. Instead we took the towpath - you cannot miss it, as the Thames Path follows the north bank of the river at this point - to the west.

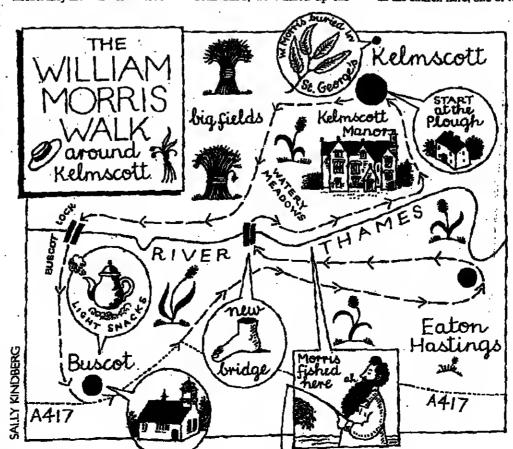
It is said that Morris was inspired by the willows, the reed beds and the sedges along this section of the Thames. The dun colours of so many of his finest designs were derived from this countryside as he punted along the river on summer afternoons, rod and line to hand. In his long riverbank walks he would gather grasses, leaves, twigs and other natural materials from the bedgerows and take them back to the manor, where he would turn them into dyes.

My reveries about this were shortly interrupted by a father and son combination, en route to the complete the 160 miles by the end of the week. A mile or so later we came to the neatly tended Buscot Lock where we were able to cross the river and amble up the lane to the group of houses that comprise Buscot Village.

In fact they are - or were - noth-

But there is a pub that provides am- Thames Barrier, determined to ing but a satellite of the great house A417 for a quarter of a mile before and park just on the other side of the nearby A417 Farringdon-Lechlade road. Now, however, the National Trust-owned hamlet sports a post office and a separate shop. To our delight, we found that the shop

also serves hot coffee. tant hamlet of Eaton Hastings. In the church here, one of Mor-Refreshed, we walked up the



Edward Burne-Jones, created two taking a sharp left turn (again, there is a sign indicating a footpath) down towards Buscot Wharf, Almost immediately we left this track, taking a path across the centre of a newly-harvested field towards the dis-

small windows for Morris's company during restoration work in 1872-74. Eaton Hastings today is more a collection of scattered cottages than a village. A multitude of odd bumps in the nearby fields indicates a previously much bigger settlement. From Eaton Hastings we retraced our steps along the south

bank of the river, evectually turning right to cross the new footbridge leading over the Thames to Kelmscott. Before crossing the river we stood on the site of a riverside pub. burnt down in the Seventics and never rebuilt. Perhaps this was because the site was too remote to do good business in the late 20th century. On the other bank it was an easy

half-mile walk to Kelmscott Manor. Our first view of the old house was from the riverbank, rising up among the poplars, its Jacobean gables standing sedately above the high wall that encloses the grounds. A pair of sparrowbawks were swooping over fields to the rear. Our route back to The Plough, and our car, lay along the left fork at the end of the lane. First, though, we strolled past the pub, viewing the row of cottages which were built in 1902, in memory of Morris, six years after he died. A carving of their bearded source of inspiration adorns the front.

At the end of the road stands the Plough Inn. small Norman church of St George. In 1889 Morris, who had founded the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings in 1877, kept a 1135 (SU 29/39)

ris's lifelong friends and collaborators, watchful eye over a restoration of the building. Morris, his wife Jane and two daughters, May and Jenny. are huried beneath a simple, ridgeshaped gravestone supported on low blocks created by his lifelong friend, architect and designer of the Morris cottages, Philip Webh.

From Kelmscott take track to the north of The Plough Inn. Turn left, following the footpath sign when the track joins a field. Cross a wooden footbridge over the stream. Continue towards the Thames. Do not cross the main footbridge. Instead take the path along the north bank for one mile towards Buscot Lock. Cross river at the lock and take the track up to Buscol

Turn left at the junction with A 417 and follow the road for a quarter-mile. When a track leads off left back towards the river, take the field path leading north-east towards Eaton Hastings. Pass over a footbridge across a tributary of the Thames. A yellow arrow to the left marks the path. Follow this path up a small rise.

Take the stile through a hedge and follow the path towards church. From here return via the same track, but this time follow the path on the south bank of the Thames until you reach the big, new footbridge across to Kelmscott. Then follow the north bank for half a mile until you reach Kelmscott and the

Length of walk: about six miles. Maps. Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 163. Pathfinder sheet

### Testaments to its historic past clutter the front entrance like knick-knacks on a mantelpiece



ROWBOTTOM

ON WEMBLEY

Wembley. History. Wembley. marble plinths commemorating forehand, are gone. Redevel-nents for the 12 minutes of History. The words merge into

Those now in charge of the old stadium feel the need to stress the point, styling it "The Venue Of Legends". But even making England's arena sound like the latest challenging bestseller by Erich Von Daniken cannot spoil the sense of place. Naff veneer over

Wembley is not tacky. Wembley, its twin towers greying like long-kept wedding cake pillars,

Testaments to its historic past clutter the front entrance like knick-knacks on a mantlepiece. Either side of the blackand-red bossed doors which have swung open for a generation of team coaches stand

the 1948 Olympics.

Craning up at the list of winname of Fanny Blankers-Koen, mother-of-two and original housewife superstar, who answered those who said she was too old at 30 to win any medals by taking four on the Wembley track - all gold . The door itself bore a more

transitory memorial left over from last month's match against Moldova - "We'll Do It For You, Diana". Above, the plaque marking the 1966 World Cup finals, with those sweet concluding words. Winners: England. The 39 steps up which Bob-

by Moore walked to receive

that trophy from the Queen, and the ledge on which he so winners. fastidiously wiped his hands be-

oped into seating.

Thus, for the 180 children ners last Sunday, I noted the and adults offered the chance to experience the stadium at first hand last weekend through a Coca-Cola competition, the promise of "climbing the famous someone said, looking around. Wembley steps" was misleading. But all the rest was the real thing. Sorry, I mean the ultimate footballing dream. No, I mean... well, you know what I mean.

For the first time in Wemhley'a history, Portugal were offered the home changing-room before their match. On this occasion, however, the national title was a hadge of convenience for a team of 14 and 15year-olds randomly combined from the list of competition

As "France", their oppo-

Wembley action allotted to them, prepared across the corridor, there was a brief oppor-

tunity to take in some historical "Not much, are they?" Blue paintwork, plain cream walls. A clock. Call them old-fashioned if you like - Wembley's changing-rooms are the sort of environment in which you could still imagine the Tortenham Double side

"Everybody can look at the bath and showers," an official announced. Everybody did.

Burgundy tiles you would want to take a mallet to. And a strong smell of toilets. So this was where our England heroes here," said a lad with ginger hair. But it wasn't, partic-

As the teams stood beside the pitch awaiting their cue, one of the Football Association coaches who had helped in their preparation shouted out to them. "Come in the tunnel boys. Let's do it properly." Back they filed into the white, caterpillar tent which ushers Gascoigne and Co into the stadium on noisier occasions.

"Go for it, boys," said another coach. "Full out attack. We are at Wembley, prohably for the only time in your life."

The main stand was sprinkled with friends and relatives. The MC commentating on the matches was relaxed - "so here

come the blues... blues attack-

was in!". But there was no mistaking the nervousness in the faces of those who waited, bouncing footballs, hlowing out air sharply. They were doing it properly.

Celebrations were also observed properly throughout the afternoon. Some teams favoured the mass sprint in a line and dive. For individual goalscorers, shirts tugged madly up over the face were de rigeur – that Fabrizio Ravanelli has a lot to answer for. One scorer did a Ravanelli to reveal a specially prepared T-shirt of Ian Wright. That Ian Wright

come to think of it. When Wembley is reduced to its listed towers and rehuilt as the National Stadium - it

has a lot to answer for, too,

"It's nice round the back ing now\_ Oooh! I thought that could happen any millennium now - the Sunday footballers who got to tread its steeply cambered pitch will retain something precious.

The events which took place will also prove richly rewarding for photographic developers around the country - there were probably more pictures taken than on a big international night.

"Mind my grass, Mum," said one of the Romanian team under-16 girls - as they left the field, handing over a handful of sacred turf before climbing Wemhley's - relatively famous steps. "Well done, Vicky!" shouted another Mum as the rest of the players filed

Wembley. History. Vicky. It was a good mix.

> SPORT ON THE INTERNET

### Lara dispute puts West Indies cricket at new low

the batting record books are in danger of being matched by his catalogue of indiscipline. Now he has had his nomination as the West Indies captain overruled. This is not the best of times for cricket in the Caribbean.

Brian Lara's entries in

Brian Lara noted something self-evident here the other day. "Anything pertaining to Brian Lara gets into the news, it seems," he said, a reference to

Cricket Board's decision to reject its selectors' nomination of Lara as captain for the forthcoming tour of Pakistan and Sharjah, in favour of Courtney Walsh's retention, and his subsequent reported comment that he was disappointed and that it would be written in the record books as "unfortunate".

There was immediate and indignant reaction in Jamaica. Walsh's home island. The matpointedly sent his vice-captain Trinidad and Tohago skipper. in their match in the current Red Stripe Bowl tournament.

Walsh claimed he was in the loo at the time but, since he did not attend the pre-match meeting with the referee either, not many bought the explanation. It was widely interpreted as a deliberate and, as far as the crowd was concerned, deserved snub. Lara was heckled and there was delighted satisfaction when he was out first ball.

on 26 October for four one-day internationals and three Tests, to he almost immediately folagainst England, and a split beits best and most dynamic hatsdermine morale completely.

The WICB president, Pat Rousseau, has sought to have an urgent meeting between the two, and Lara has moved to smooth things over, saying he had "a very quiet chat with Courtney on the issue and I am a day would be Carl Hooper, the spect I have always had for

The selectors' choice of Lara reflected general popular opinion outside Jamaica, hut it was based more on the appreciation that Walsh, a fast bowler, now the latest of the several con- 34 and in his 13th year of Test troversies that have enveloped cricket, is near the end of his career and Lara, for all his tem-It concerns the West Indies peramental instability, is the ohvious, if not only, successor.

They must have been tempted to resign en bloc after the Board's rare rebuff, hut the

#### BY TONY COZIER

ter came to a delicate head in chairman. Wes Hall, the tear-Kingston last weekend, when away fast bowler of the 1960s, Walsh, also the Jamaica captain, simply commented: "The selectors nominate a captain in the out to toss with Lara, the full knowledge that it is the prerogative of the Board to pick that captain or any other

captain". Although Lara has heen groomed for leadership since he became Trinidad and Tobago's youngest captain at 20 and led West Indies A team to Zimbabwe a year later, the Board members are clearly wary of his lapses that is as long as that of his hatting records.

He was fined 10 per cent of The team leaves for Pakistan his tour fee when he temporarily abandoned the team in England in 1995; he was given a written reprimand that stiplowed by the home series ulated that any further breach "would attract the strongest

tween its respected captain and condemnation" after incidents most experienced member and during last year's World Cup when Richie Richardson quit as man has the potential to un- captain and Andy Roberts was sacked as coach; and he was again fined 10 per cent of his match fee for turning up late prior to the first Test against Sri Lanka last June.

The one alternative to Lara when Walsh does finally call it sure he is aware of the great re- enigmatic 30-year-old allrounder who, after 10 years of underachievement in international cricket, has shown increasing signs of consistency. But his status is also open to question after a report from a tournament official that, in a protest over fees, he refused to play in the Hong Kong Sixes last month, in which he was the appointed captain.

He has denied it and is threatening legal action, but the Board is still awaiting an explanation of why he turned up, did not play, and handed over the captaincy to Philo Wallace.

The inauguration of the Red Stripe Bowl, the regional oneday tournament that has introduced coloured uniforms, white balls, black sightscreens and all the standard razzmatazz of the shortened game to the Caribbean for the first time, might have been enough to deflect such negativity. Instead, it has had troubles of its own.

The stipulation of the sponsors, the hrewers of the Jamaican heer, that the semi-finals and final must be played in Jamaica over the five years of its contract has predictably generated a storm of protest from the rest of the Caribbean. In addition, the Board's already shaky reputation for organisational skills list of continuing disciplinary was further diminished when one of the opening matches had to be postponed because the team outfits were not delivered on time and another was delayed because someone forgot to hring along the balls.

> These have not been encouraging times for West Indies



The way they were: Brian Lara (right) congratulates Courtney Walsh after his dismissal of England's Alec Stewart during the second Test in Guyana in 1994 Photograph: Graham Morris

#### Sea change for funding will help Olympic assault

In what he described as the means tested and based on a nohiggest change ever in the funding of our sport, Rod Carr, racing manager of the Royal Yachting Association, yesterday unveiled a rolling programme of cash support from the national lottery as part of the World Class Performance Plan.

An initial £1.1m will be pumped into the clite squad for both overseas competition and subsistence funding for the competitors in the year to I July 1998 with plans already submitted for the following three years. There will also be grants

for sports science and medicine. As sailing will not be included in any inland-based British Academy of Sport, nine existing regional centres will be promoted to sports specific sailing academies, with major funding already announced for Plymouth and Pwllheli.

The funding will be concentrated on Olympic and Youth World Championship classes. The aim, said Carr, will be turn additional funding into medals. For the sailors there will be a mix of direct cash support.

tional basic £16,000 a year, and equipment cost support. The funding of overseas competition will come out of a basic fund of £800,000.

While the tax position of the athletes is not yet clear, they will sign joint contracts with the Royal Yachting Association and the UK Sports Council, with whom the grant has been negotiated. Carr was keen to emphasise that the funding was expandable, and that other athletes who meet the qualification criteria would be added.

The RYA is expected to play its part in promoting the UKSC. hut the athletes will not be ohliged to be involved in that programme. Some additional programmes which have yet to receive UKSC approval are expected to be submitted again.

"This is a major improvement to the prospects of British yachting in the long term," said Carr, whose fight through hureaucracy has won high praise. "It is particularly important to those aspiring to Athens in 2004."

- Stuart Alexander

### Pitch in for stats on the bats

As the haseball season reaches its climax and heads toward the World Series, which starts next Saturday, October 18, I thought it would be interesting to see how the Internet covers America's

I know I should like it because of its similarity to cricket and its passion for statistics, but somehow I can't get started. But looking at the annual results. I know cricketers have it easy. A successful basehall team will play more than 170 games in a season lasting seven months from April to October. That even includes playing double-headers. two games on the same

Currently the play-offs, to decide which teams contest the World Series, have just started with the American League play-offs between the Baltimore Orioles and the Clevelan Indians and the National League play-offs between the Atlanta Braves, last season's runners-up, and the Florida Marlins.

The Fastball web site (http://www.fastball.com/) has all the up-to-date news on the play-offs with links to individual pages for the teams. It also includes sections on statistics with archives going back two years, news, gossip, virtual baseball games and fantasy results. There is also an interesting piece oo the average salary, which for the past six years has been over \$1m (£625,000).

The Baseball Server (http://www.sportserver.com/ SportServer/baseball/) covers baseball worldwide as well as the expected Major League part. It has a hetter coverage of the play-offs with action photos plus a page of odds. CBS Sportsline (http:// cbs.sportsline.com/index.ht ml) has as its main feature a play-by play breakdown

for each day. Following the weather connection with last week's piece on the Whithread, you can also surprisingly link to Hurricane Central (http://www.storm97.com/) with latest news on Pauline, Fabian and El Nino.

Edward Abelson

#### **ADDRESSES**

http://www.fastball.com/ Baeeball eerver http://www.sportserver.com /SportServer/basebat/ **CBS Sportstine** http://cbs.sportsline.com index.html ESPN Sportszone

http://espn.sportszone.com/ Official Baseball site http://www.majorleague basebail.com/

**USA Today** http://www.usatoday.com sports/mib.htm The Sporting News http://www.sporting news.com/basehall/ Hurricane Central

### The South Atlantic high is in the wrong place



**GRANT DALTON** 

The skipper of Merit Cup describes how the wind is playing more tricks than usual on the first leg of the Whitbread Round the **World Race** 

and half-way through leg one. I would have expected a clearer picture to have emerged who's fast and a threat and must be watched every step of the way, who's off the pace and in need of a miracle or two.

If normal weather patterns had prevailed, we would have had a pretty good idea by now. But first the light, shifting winds and now the south-eastcrly headwinds have denied us this vital information. Unusual weather is the story of the leg so far. All we have learned since we left Southampton is that you can't trust the weather.

Our navigator, Mike Quilthe weather doing what it's supposed to do, in spite of mount-Those 20-mile losses in six hours, which we all experienced in the first10 days had crew, but just about the wind and where you happened to be on the ocean.

for example, cannot be written off. Silk Cut is hanging in there, uncomfortably close even though for days there has been 100 miles between them and the front three yachts.

The forecast is for more headwinds for the next lew days. We are hoping that they will continue at least until we get to 35 degrees S. Our current discomfort is

brought about by the South Atlantic high. It's in the wrong place! It should be further north and to the east, giving us south-easterlies off the top of it. If it was further nonh and to the east, we would be reachter, still has a touching faith in ing across the back of it towards the next mark and then running around the bottom of ing evidence that it doesn't, it to Cape Town. That's what we expected, but it's certainly not what we've got.

Whitbread 60s are not denothing to with performance or signed for this sort of work. They're built to sail fast off the wind and a beat really hammers both the yacht and the

After almost two weeks at sea Toshiba and Swedish Match, is tremendous. The movement has to be seen to be believed. It's impossible to move about without clutching on to something. The rigs and sails are under immense strain, so the crew must keep an eye out for danger. In conditions like this, I worry about hreaking something hig and vital that will affect our chances of winning.

But there's always something to worry about out here. When winds are light and shifting. I worry that someone else is in a better breeze and getting the jump on us.

I have to say that we might have left the wrong boat at home. Most W60s-this boat in particular - are optimised for downwind sailing. We're not slow upwind, hut it's certainly not our best point of sailing. I'm sure the other boat, which is wider and more powerful, and a lot faster upwind and reaching, would have been perform-

ing better in the sea conditions. However, we are pleased that we have been able to It's not helping us to get a crew. The noise as we crash off hang on to Innovation Kvaernhandle on the opposition, the waves in this moderate sea or and even make some little

gains since we rounded Fer-

nando de Noranho. On paper, we should be losing a hit. Kvaerner has an L-shaped keel, which tank tests show is more effective upwind. L-shaped keels tend to be bigger than the Ts. Merit Cup has a very fine T-shaped keel and small rudder (the smallest in the fleet), which produces less drag and therefore higher speed downwind. We have to trade that off

against our performance up-

wind. We're not surprised - just

pleased-that we're hanging on

upwind.

We have good speed downwind, but the best all round boat will win the race. You can't be bullet fast in some conditions and embarrassingly slow in others and expect to win the Whithread.

Will the Whithread.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (first leg, 7,350 miles, Southempton to Cape Town) Latest positions: I Innovation Number (first leg, 1,350 miles). Southempton to Cape Town) Latest positions: I Innovation Number (first) & Horizon (Monacol & Datton + 17 miles, 3 EF Language (Swe) P Cayard + 22, 4 S& Cut (58) (Smith + 147; 5 Toshba (US) C Dickson + 157; 7 Americas Challenge (US) R Field + 393; 8 Swedsh Match (Swe) & Nardt + 422; 9 EF Language (Swe) C Guillou + 152; 10 Brunel Sunergy (Neth) H Souscholte + 612.

المكذا من ألاصل





Above: Frankie Dettori dismounts in trademark fashion from Starborough after winning the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot

Left: A string of horses trained by Barry Hills enjoy the

### Hallam's sporting vision wins double IOC accolade



tingham 'A' (nearside) beat Neptune in the final of the Thames Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta

The Independent's Robert Hallam has continued the The Independent's Robert Hallam has continued the paper's tradition of prize-winning sports photography by winning two awards in the ninth International Olympic Committee Best of Sport Photographic cootest. Hallam, 36, a previous winner of the British Sports Photographer of the Year competition, was awarded the Silver Lens for second place in the colour category for his photograph of Frankie Dettori dismounting at Royal Ascot (top right). The eight photographs on this page make up his colour portfolio, tographs on this page make up his colour portfolio, for which he was highly commended.

There were entries from 26 countries for the com-

petition, which was not limited to Olympic sports in order to encourage exposure of "less covered sports". To qualify, the photographs had to be taken between 1 September 1996 and 10 August 1997. Hallam, the only British award winner, won the prize for the best black and white portfolio in 1995.

The winners of the main categories this year were: Colour photograph: Shimoda Yuichi (Nikkan Sports News); colour portfolio: Tim Claytoo (Sydney Morning Herald); black and white photograph: Trent Parke (The Australian); black and white portfolio: Trent Parke.



Awaiting the start of the Open Water Swimming Championship at Rudyard Lake in Staffordshire



le's David Rees holds off the challenge of Richmond's Jim ion to score a try in their rugby union Pilkington Cup tie



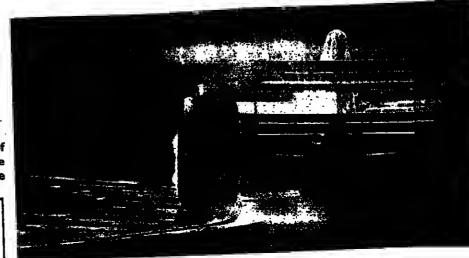
Coome Hill, one of the favourites for the 1997 Cheltenham Gold Cup, works out on the beach at Bude in Cornwall, near the yard of his trainer, Waiter Dennis



A wicket falls in Surrey's County Championship match against Yorkshire at The Oval in June

> A blown engine ends the challenge of Ferrari's Michael Schumacher in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone

To order a print of one of these photographs telephone 0171 293 2534 (subject to availability)



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Stim, creative, thoughtful male,

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carting, considerate, white

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE? is ARYBOUT OUTTHERE? Sim, attractive temale, 43, N/s. Ilkes trevel. classical music, theatre, film and independent/ atternative approach to life, seeks fit male, 35-45, for friend-stup and relationship. \$2729 REDHEAD ROMANCE Sim. Id. autum-humat temale REDHEAD ROMANCE Silm, lit, autoum-heired female, 45, interested in the aris, the-atre/cinema/ballet, started rock climbing. Can anyone help? Seeking affectionate, culgoing, adventurous male, for triend-ship and romance. 18:2755 SEEKING

schonate, tall, non-British, orced, beautiful, fit ledy, own own successful busiless and lovely cosy home, is

ness and lovely cosy home, is still searching for your male, 42-48, over 61°, ill, attractive, strong and sensitive. 272718

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Youthful, attractive, loving, professional musician, mid-40s, with fiterary, theathrail, atternative leanings and much more, soeks similar, stim, sensitive male, for whatever the future may hold. 272746

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man, 45-65, for friendship and maybe romange. 35/2706

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tionship, 192747
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FUTTY, sometimes or transcers.

nes outrageous, interesting, attractive woman, wonders if there is a man with guts, the and imagination, who would like to meet. No under 50e, smolears or bores need 2004. 372568

RED-HEADED NURSE RED-HEADED NURSE SIIm, attractive, divorced, auburn-haired nurse, mid-40s, seeks attractive, N/S man, smiles app, with warmith, wit, perception, for whatever unfolds, NW Kent/South London area.

CUDDLY FEMALE Caring, cuddly, petite female.
40s, Into everything, eeeks
educated male, with GSOH, lor
caring friendship. Anywhere.

BUBBLY REDHEAD Bubbly redhead, enjoys wine, coolding, criema, gardening, wine, walding, wine, seeks professional, adventurous, humorous, honest, lively male, 50-55. No drumks need apply!!

PROFESSIONAL POSSIBILITIES? PROFESSIONAL
POSSIBILITIES?
Professional female graduate,
31, works in medical profession, tosks professional male,
doctor/fewryer/similar, 40-50,
must love log fires, animals and good food. 1272537

BLONDE BOMBSHELL
Attractive, athletic professional, brown-eyed female, 32, 5107, seeks extravagant male, to meles little by professional to the contraction of the c

al, brown-eyed female, 32, 510°, seeks extravagant male, to explore life in London, \$\overline{\text{T2543}}\$

OO YOU THE HAVE THE NERVE?

Tail, attractive, NW England female, 32, seeks sane cross between Hannbal Hayes and Harry Hill, forever! \$\overline{\text{T2510}}\$

CAMBRIDGESHIRE REDHEAD

Attractive, red-headed female, thirty-something, juggling

Autacher, techneaded termale, thirty-something, (urgiling careers and idds, seeks similal male, for aid wine and convergation, \$72555

MAVERICK FEMALE., ... wants independent male, to share the big adventure with, I am 39, tall, dark, shm, with cool water to any and water instance.

exterior and warm interior. We can talk about music, an 8 walk for miles, London, \$2506 BEEKING

BEEKING
SOUTH EAST MALE
Tal, fun-towing, sim lemale, 41,
511\*, enjoys goll, ourdoor pulsuits, seeks gimtar male, for
Imendiship/romance 22530
ADVENTURDUS
TRAVELLER
Formale, 49, GSOH, young cutlook, own business, likes
adventurous travel, loves tock
music and Mozart, Buddhism,
cars, cinema, theatra, walking,
countryside, newtroning, seeks

JAZZ UP YOUR LIFE JAZZ UP YOUR LIFE
Pente, atmostive, warm, loving
and sincere, lively lady, into
country walks, sking, wine,
one and dance, loves music
and living, seeks like-minded
man of similar ege, 45-55,
Sumey based 172562
LOVE IS OUR CLASSROOM
Hanov. attractive, Sim, Happy, attractive, slim, European lemale, young 60s, enjoys the ans and outdoor pursuits, seeks tall, well-edu-cated, fil, handsome male, with

Integrity, 47-60, for romance and company, 202533 LIVELY ENERGETIC 54 Warm, subrovert lemble, 5'2', blonde/blue, enjoys country pubs, occasional drink, reading, music and most things, seeks tall, musicular male, for intendiship/relationship.

INDEPENDENT LADY INDEPENDENT LAUY
Intelligent, active, caring, lun.
enjoys good food wine, music,
walking, counlyside, seeks
quick-witted male companion,
GSOH, 55-65. West London area, can travel. 172516

LANCASHIRE LASS
Young-at-heart, widowed lady,
outgoing personality, 55, 57',
blonde/folue, likes gardening,
pets, travel, walking, holidays, dhing out, seeks lafish male, smilar age/intensits, for friand-ship/relationship. 272636 EXEYER LADY

Romantic genuine, furstwor-thy, considerate female, likes folk/classical/popular music, theatres, cnems, ars, dining out, coast/countryside, seeks single/widowed/arnulled, hon-est, genuine male, good moral outlook, with loving heart, 20-40, 32:370

outdoit, with lowing heart, 2040, 22370
2 BECOME 1
Interesting, kind-hearned, lowing female, seeks romantic, Christian male, 20+, to share life and joy. Loves musicarits/ poetry and takes the road less travelled. 37:2299
LARGE & LOVELY
Pretty, Independent, Intelligent, spiritual, Manchester female, 25, large build, seeks Mi Flight.

spiritual, Manchester female, 25, jarge build, seeks Mi Flight, for retationship 122335 LOVELY LADY 122336 INTO ANTIQUES & MUSIC...

come. Heirs area. T52528
HAVE GAKE, WANT ICING!
Slim. pnesentable, lively, bright,
South Wales female, seeks fit
male, 47-52, with wisdom and
integrity, to an intriguting life of
romance and merrimen!.
T52534

LOVE AND LAUGHTER Sum, attractive, intelligent, Canterbury widow, 51, seeks one special man, to be at least, a very dear intend. \$2557

more, 222313

Tr 2324

Indran female, 5', Trinidad ori-

gin, great cook, seeks kind,

carng, considerate, white male, 45-60, for friendship,

Attractive, stylish, brunette female, 43, N/S, no lies, VGSOH, seeks eltractive, pro-

tessional male, 35-49, no bes.

PRESENTABLE

mum, seeks educated gentle-

romance, Humour more Impor-

SEEKING MY SPECIAL MAN

sim, successful male, 55lsh, who is adventurous, romantic

end most importantly sincere. North London area. \$2298

A WOMAN FOR KEEPS

Attractive, leminine, slm, adventurous, professionel,

adventurous. professionel, Indian lady, Kuala Lumpur or-gins, dworoed with 2 children, varied interests, wicked SOH, seeks Australians or continen-

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BRIGHT YOUNG THING
Afractive, slim, intelligent, independent female, 25, seeks lait, charming, successful male, 30-40, tor all things gorgeous, London/Essex, 17:2354
KIND GENUINE MALE?
Tall, steeder, friendly, professional Tall, slender, friendly, proles-sional lemale, seeks laft, humorous, settled male, 27-34. for a loving relationship, London area, 1372301 YES

22376 SLEEPLESS IN BEDFORD? male, 5'10". to explore lite

BRIGHTON LADY Warm, down-to-earth female, 36, M/S. seeks compatitive male, with heart, head, hands, humour, for intendship first. 272340 TIME FOR a CHANGE TIME FOR A CHANGE TIME FOR A CHANGE.

Easygoing, caring, active, Intelligent, affractive, silm, dark-hamed temale, tate 30s, empoys most things in Me, seeks hon-est, intelligent, MS male, 35-50, for finendship/relationship

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Tali, kind, ambitious male, 24, seeks attractive temale, 18-30,

for fun and friendship. 232725

ALTERNATIVE L'AMOUR? Kind, easygoing, altractive, professional, in, Indian male,

professional, it, Indian male, 38, 6; enjoys bughing, voga-ellemature therapy, theatra-bavel, seeks sim/medium-buit, warm female, any nationality, for tomance, London/SE area.

Sincere, loyal, romantic, intelli-

gent, good-looking, witty male, 28, 6°, enjoys theatre, diring out, walking, cinema, conversa-tion, seeks shrillar female, 25-50, no tes, NVS, for furt, therid-teriorities child.

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#### **BRIGHTON BLOKE** Down-to-eerth, professional, stylish woman, long dark/pale Place year own Voice green, art graduate, enjoys socialising, travel, dancing, 0800 216 318 similar, confident, Inendity man,

WARM & AFFECTIONATE Artractive female, 30s, seeks slim male, 36-45, with GSOH, ship and fun. London area.

IDEAS ABOVE MY STATION? ATTRACTIVE SPARKLER Outgoing, professional lemale, 53", enjoys keeping fit, dining out, theatre, music end socialising, seeks successful, attractive male, late 40s-50, N/S, with good-natured, intelligent male, 50-70, for pleasant, platomic pursuits. Title and lortune no deirhneni. Sheffield area, GSOH, Edinburgh area, UNBREAK MY HEART intelligent, well-travelled, East

LIBRA LADY accomplished, stylish, opinion-ated, London, Jewish woman, seeks astrologically compati-ble, divorced, Jewish man, 50-60, for long-term committed relationship. 122319 LADY IN RED

LADY IN RED
Femnuno, leistly & trancy free, unconventional female accountant, longing to love, tength, play and share again, with tall, pro-lessoral/grathcale, 50-60, with a trinkle in his eye, Herts/ Beds/Cambs, 1723)7.

CARDIFF LADY
Carriet, et al. strm. genuina lady.

Cardiff, tall, sirm, genuine lady, GSOH, seeks intelligent, caring male, 55+, 5'10"+, for compan-



LET'S START AS FRIENDS Retired, N/S. muslim, British/ Pakistani male, 62, seeks kind lemale, farr and silm, any ret-pion/nationality. Essex ares. 272745

Caring, easygoing male, 30s, enjoys most things in the, seeks mature temale, for love and companionship, 272739
OUTDOOR INTERESTS Stim, it male vegetarian, 48, loves live music, dancing, yoga, drumming, festivals, nature, getting around, personal growth, open to suggestions, seeks wide awake female per-Stim. professional male, 33. enjoys rock climbing, hill walk-ing, seeks female, smilar Inter-ests. Manchester or NW erea. seeks wide awake female per-son. \$2757

CUMBRIAN MALE
Romantle, divorced, very fi-male, GSOH, trying to reach the surface again, seeks cul-tured, active, music-towing female, 35-50. N/S, for romance end adventure, \$72750

ORIENTAL FEMALE ORIENTAL FEMALE
FR. caring, romantic mela, 34,
510°, seeks Oriental/Astan. fit,
slim and pretty female, lot
friendship and romance.
22:2744 romance end adventure.

72750

LDVE, FUN AND AVAILABLE

Professional, tall, sim, fit male,
sensitive and a hopeless
romantic, young-looking 49,
GSOH, loves eating, diriking,
most other things, seeks happy,
attractive temale, tale 30s-early
40s, Hens/London/SE area, LIFE IN THE BUS LANE

West Yorkshire male, 34, likes theatre, criema, walking, gigs, seeks fellow temale passenger, for fun times, "\$2241 MIDEPENDENT READER MEDICAL 24.6" Non-grumpy male, 34, 6'. enjoys walking, countryside, conservation, swimming, readconservation, swimming, reading, seeks tallish, ettractive female graduate, 23-30, for triandship/relationship. East

Michaels, 232726
ARE YOU ALONE?
Me too! I'm a deal, N/S, affectionate, caring, honest, nitractive, black tella, 35 but looks 25, from Nottingteam, 6504.

25, from Notingteam, GSOH, seeles white/Assan/maten 4ady, 25-48, must be full of romance, 72/234

LOOKING FOR LOVE Camp male, 35, 6', likes cinema, correcties, sport, concerts, seeks female, 20-45, for good times together, 72/2731

CROSS COUNTRY CHARMS Freedby, honest, warm, carring, intelligent male, 30s, 6', GSOH, occasional smoker, enjoys travelling, chema, music, cross country driving, seeks kindhearted, intelligent, preturably CUDDLY NURSE
Easygoing male, 27, 5'11",
dark/dark, medium build,
enjoys good lood, socialising,
clubs, hand gliding, lots more,
seeks aflectionate lemale, 2535, for thendship, possibly
more, London area, 25:259
STEADY SEEKER
Steam local measure, untilihearted, Intelligent, preferably Asian lemale, 25-35, with stor-itar interests, for mendehip/rela-tionship, 27-27-53 TRIE FOR A CHANGE

TIME FOR A CHANGE
Easygoing male, 37, enjoys
conversation, eating, donking,
hill walking, reading, seeks
female, to share above things,
have, lun, 172748
RELATIONSHIP AHOY?
Male, late 30s. GSOH, seeks
long-term, towing (nerviship/
relationship, with genite, caring
female, who is willing to share
good limes and life, \$22706

Chat Lines

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Protessional, educated, Christian male, 40, part-time ded, sitm, youthful, enargetic, passionata, enjoys music, wationg, cycling, swimming, seeks female companion, to share life and interests. TYPEA LOVER Male, 40, seeks lady companion. Lincs srea or London. 57:2761

Any Querier?

SLEEPLESS

N HARTFORD SHIRE
Cancer male, 41, N/S, seeks
piscean/scorpto lemale, 35-45,
in need of TLC, let's share life
together. T2710

SCINTILLATING
Warm, witty, erticulate,
Ghristian businessman, 43,
seeks Miss Personality, for life
and beyond, Midlands erea.
T2742

EXPERIENCED PARTNER
Handsome, professional, single
hunk, 40tert, erionys travel, filess and the arts, seeks dark,
young lemale, 18-25, for evoring, lasting relationship, Black',
Asian worman welcome.
London/Southern England
area. T2712

ARE YOU LONESOME?

ARE YOU LONESOME?
Bubbly, outgoing male, 45, 6°3",
brown halrieyes, smoker, likes
traveling, cooking, socialising,
80e/70s music, seeks similar
temale, 30-50, for friendship,
possible retationship, Basingstoke area. 32:2715
BACK TO BASICS
Attractive grate value 45, 5°3"

BACK TO BASICS
Attractive male, young 46, 5'2",
slim build, enjoys alternative
theraples, spiritual life, cycling,
countryside, seetes slim formale
soul male, 33-44, N/S, for lesting relationship. London area.
272707
YOU'RE THE ONE ! WANT
Ked considerate wasts had been

Kind, considerate male, looking for that special lady, to enjoy good times egain, likes sports, cinema, eating out, various types of music especially rock, for fun times. London area. MALE NURSE

MALE NURSE

Sim, fit, caring graduate, young
47. 6', seehs happy, warm
lemale, 28-48, for friendship/
relationship. West Suffolk/
Cambs area. 272714

RECYCLE & REBORN
Recycled teeraget, 49, saeks
lemale. 35+. for friendship,
maybe more. 27275

AROMATIG L'AMOUR
Quiet male, 50, 5'3', enjoys charna, sport, curies, saeks outgoing ternale, with talkahve parsorraity, for friendship/relationship. Central London, 272751

MODEL RELATIONSHIP
Handsome, athleet, intelfectual

mander, athlete, intellectual male artist, 51, NW UK, seeks model relationship, with creative, enable, younger woman, \$2752

FEMININE SIDE

Tall, ediactive, gentle-natured, sensitive, affectionate, professional male, 50. GSCH, with outlook, personality and impeccable, taste, enjoys opera, cinema, many sports, seeks affectionate lady, who vakues caring, hauling, laughter and love.

TC2732

QUIETLY ASSERTIVE

Male, seeks professional, inde-Male, seeks professional, inde-pendent lemale, 45-55sh, for Intendiship/relationship, Wolverhampton area, 72-2728

LOOK NO FURTHER sional maie, 40, 6°, săm buid, enjoys cycling, photography, keeping fit; music, seeks attrac-tive, silm temale, for new expe-tionoes and sharing, 78:2548 MISCHIEVOUS DEVIL Unbelievably eligible, dark, cute, sightly funky male, 26, seeks Intelligent, attractive female, 23-30, for romance. London area, 18:254.

London area. 192544
YOUNG ARAB MALE
Trainee phor. 25, 511\*, seeks
NS, fun-koving temale, for
triendship/relationship. London

area. \$2507

TALL AND SLIM **UPTOWN MAN** Chamingly ironic, pretentious, postgraduate mais, 25, seeks ternale soul mate, for hot nights out, warm nights in. Sheffield area. 122569 YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS Tail, dark, handsome, relaxed, confident, reasonably success-

> somples at all, with wicked SOH, seeks equally wicked female, 24-32, N/S, for fun and friandship. London area. ET2552 GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE senses ments frank ALIKE Student male, 20e, sim build, 53°, blond/blue, health tenedic, enjoys company with the right kind of people, seeks lemais, 18-29, for hun, mendship and relationship, Leicester area, 372508

STEADY SEEKER STEADY SEERCH
Sincere, loyal, nomartic, intelli-gent, good-looking, withy male, 29, 6°, enjoys theatre, dining out, walking, cinema, conversa-tion, seeks similar femala, 25-50, no ties, NS, for frun, riend-ship/relationship. Midlands

ship/relationship. Midiartis grea. With travel. T2555 SOUL MATE Professional, Asian male, 28, seeks fun-loving, meture, nomardic female, single mum welcome, for friendship/relawelcome, for friendship/rela-tionship. London eres. 272512 UNIVERSAL EXPLOSION? SE based graduate, 30, seeks Intelligent, attractive, sensitive ternale, to hold my hand while I walt for the big band. Second wait for the big bang. \$72583 NORTH EAST SONGWRITER Creative graduate, 30. Into songwriting, music, sign, jazz clubs, poetry, current atlans, intelligent conversation, chilling

EASYGOING HIGH FLYER EASYGONIA HIGH FLYEH Professional male, 29, 611; long black/brown, medlum build, enjoys current affairs, history, travel, nights outlin, socialising, seeks caring, chat-ty, professional, irrelligent temale, 25-35, similar inter-ests, GSOH, for friendship, possible relationship. 172509
TALL, DARK & HANDSOME

Professional, Asian male, 29, enjoys cinema, reading, current affairs, travel, music, cooking. going out, seeks intelligent ternale, similar age/hobbles, for Idendship/relationship, London. ADVENTURQUS MERMAID Professional male, 30, GSOH, enjoys good food, real ale, seeks lady, 22-35, climbel, diver, travelling permer, for inendship. 17:2518

LOVE AND HAPPINESS

Sporty, highly-educated, MS male, 31, 6'3", enjoys keeping fit, socialising, good food, seeks affectionate companion, for linendship, maybe more, London, 252511 FREE-SPIRITED

Tall, silm, protessoral, eporty male, 31, 611, athletic build, flees sport, clubs, pubs, music, flims, reading, seeks file-mind-ed temale, 25-33, for triendship/relationship. South Coast based, 17:2554

ud for breaks, weekends away, intendship, by single male. 20s. 28:4305

NEW IN LONDON
Independent, tun, easygoing, open-minded, Belgium temale. 34, loves bravel, discovery, film, music, good food & wine, publing & diubbing, seeks similar male/remale. for Intendship. 82735

spiritual development, seeku spirited, independent female any age, for friends ship. 222542 SEEKING

ship. 222713 1 FEEL 4 U Male student nurse, 22, Wes reading, charms, seeks triball-gent and with male, 18+, for tun and triendship, Manchester area\_ 272743

SEARCHING CAMBRIDGESHIRE Gay, tall male, 35, medium-build, seeks male, up to 40, for one-to-one relationship, Cambndgeshire area. 122738 TIME SPENT WITH YOU

Attractive, sporty male, 35, GSOH, N/S. likes traveling enjoys watching Fraiser and This Life, seeks similar male 25-45, for a possible friendship, relationship, South Water area

nearly 6", blue/light brown, seeks straight-acting, massculine, young Prince Charming, to more. Arry area. 272709

Gay male graduate/profession-at, 50, into classical music, historic houses, books, history & the arts, seeks similar, 40-50, for Intendship, possible 1-2-1.

encompassing India, SE Asia, Australia 8 USA, also trekking In Nepal/Tibel. 222715 TRAVEL COMPANION... straight materienale, want-ad for breaks, weekends away.

or temale, late 20s/30s, to Morocco or Goe this winter NEW FRIENDS WANTED

50, no bas, N/S, tor fun, thend-shp/relationship. Midtlands area, will travel, 72/27/22 LET'S STARTT AS FRIENDS Well-educated, N/S, good-book-ing, very fit, professional male, 30, current miterasts include sport, cinema, clubbing, enting out, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 20-30, for triendship, maybe more. London area, 22/27/11 GUIDELINES: Private individuals seeking lang-turm managamous relationships may advertise in Voice Personals". We suggest that ads contain a self-description, againing 18 years of age for publication in Voice Personals". Also, no ads will be published socking persons younger than 18 years of age. We suggest that the first mouting alway to any personal advertisement, The advertisemes complete habitity for the covernor of all topins to any advertisement or recorded missage and for any claims made usually any advertisement or recording placed by the advertiser or any riphy to any such advertisement. By using Voice Personals", the advertiser agrees not to leave his/f

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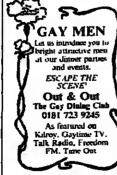
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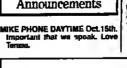
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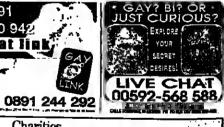
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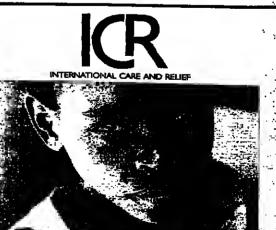
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Exterior

MEEK

TODAY

Youthful, attractive male, 41

JUST FRIENDS

ageirea unimportant, for friendship/travel, 202720 TRAVEL WITH ME Stylish, professional woman, 40s, seeks male travel com-panion, likes Ancient Gruece, for travel, friendship, 202330

Chat Lines



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR HER?

hunger, disease and corruption. Life is hard for this young girl and her community, but at least they have been able to benefit from International Care and Relief's health, education and agriculture remained in Zaire in spite of all the threats and difficulties. And there's more, much more work to do.

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### Sue Barker hasn't really changed anything: the trouble is, we all know what happens next



CHRIS MAUME

SPORT

It's hard to imagine A Ques- down as flung in its face with player, Anna Kournikova, was Cooke's Letter from America. Maybe I should start reading apart from Abyssinia). There dous enthusiasm." As a police-David Coleman. But consider this: at one time it was probably hard to imagine it withoot Cliff Morgan. Memories like that, happily, are the kind the subconscious tends to do an excellent job of suppressing.

At 71, Coleman thought it was all over, and so it was, for paint. him at least, and an erstwhile Stockport County footballer French Open tennis champion - plus ça change and all that. Woolly jumpers are out; booded tops are in, as sported in the first of the new series by the new MC, Sue Barker.

In its last couple of series, the programme had already responded to the challenge of They Think It's All Over (a

tion of Sport (BBC1) without a cry of "You're shit-aaah") by upping its IQ (Innuendo Quotient, that is), and that trend continued on Tuesday with plenty of limp-joked ribaldry over the recent magazine photo-spread featuring one of the guests, the heptathlate Denise Lewis, wearing nothing hut a few licks of body

"It's very nice to see you with your clothes on," said has been replaced by a former captain John Parrott, while his oppo. Ally McCoist, said of the snaps: "They're certainly on my wall." You couldn't imagine Nick Hancock or Rory McGrath being quite so politc.

The producers seem to have told them to play it a hit more laddish, though. In the picture round, Parrott's reaction to a gauntiet not so much thrown picture of the young tennis

"Unfortunately, the answer 'fit hird wouldn't go down too well." Frankie Dettori's response, meanwhile, was a low groan of "Oh yeah." But apart from Barker's

minute quantities of testosterone, nothing has changed. The format may have been different some time in prehistory, too far back for me to remember: questions on the contestants' own sports, with the accompanying cosy, slightly teasing fireside chats, then the picture round, home and away, mystery guest, what happened next, one-minute round and the rest of the pictures a format as familiar and soothing as a really soft and wootly Coleman jumper. It's like

Desert Island Discs or Alistair

the defiantly unreconstructed: As some historian or other re- Loaded. marked after the poll tax protests, only the British rint to keep things the same, and you sense that the massed ranks of Middle England -8,000,000 of them according to arrival and an injection of the viewing figures - would be outside Television Centre hreaking up paving stones if the Birt brigade tinkered

unduly with QoS. Sad to report, then, and call me churlish, but I have to say I was a hit bored. Maybe my palate has been coarsened by Hancock's half-hour of pub-crawl vulgarity, all the talk of shags and slappers and twats and gits, but Barker and Co did little to lift QoS out of its stultifying routine.

When does a groove become a rut? That word cosy kept coming back to mind.

That particular organ should have been around in 1934, when Italy came over for the Battle of Highbury and there was more testosterone on the pitch than in the veins of a battalion of cheating athletes. The excellent series Leviathan (BBC2), which takes historical perspectives on current stories in the news, took the opportunity, in the light of this evening's Rumble in Rome, of looking back to another confrontation between England and the Azzuri.

There was some nice scene-setting, explaining how English expats were responsible for spreading the gospel 100 years ago, starting out with cricket clubs, and how later football became fascism's favourite battleground (well,

footage, with lots of marching blackshirts (unless it was Manchester United parading their latest away strip), and a commentator who made Harry Enfield's Cholmondely-Warner sound like Fat Fred from Coronation Street: "Before the game commences," he says over film of an earlier match, "the great Italian crowd roars a welcome to Signor Mussolini." Il Duce is sitting there (in a trilby for some reason) looking immensely pleased with himself, like a Capo Di Tutti Capi who's just arranged

recalcitrant. Cholmondely-Warner was in action again at Highbury: "The stends are pecked with some 60,000 spectators and tremen-

for a horse's head to be de-

livered to some unfortunate

was some great archive man fans a spectator, he says: "Fainting already? It can't be the heat, so it must be excitement - or speghetti." The match, a 3-2 victory to England, was a bloodbath (though the programme had too little of the maybem there goes my coarse palate again), and we were shown a headline which in its genteel way was in a direct line to today's tabloid nonsense: "This Italian Football: Not Soccer As We Know It". C-W, though, had kind words for the vanquished: "Well tried, Ettely."

Cut to the present day, and presenter Mark Urhan reminded us that "Italy have won seven of the last 11 encounters. Perhaps it's just as well they never took up cricket too." Another 3-2 win for England tonight would be worth a few more bloody noses.

MOTOR RACING: JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

### Paddock war threat clouds title climax

The right result at the Japanese Grand Prix tomorrow would see Jacques Villeneuve win the Formula One drivers'

However, as David Tremayne discovered, a dispute between the top teams and the sport's management is proving more than just a distraction at Suzuka.

As Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher warmed up for the fight for the world championship, storm clouds gathered behind the scenes in the Formula One paddock here. promising a winter of discontent the like of which has not seen ace the war between the teams and the governing body in 1981.

Back then, Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the teams' association, Foca, and his lawyer, Max Mosley, battled against the sport's then governing body. Fisa, and its autocratic president, Jean-Marie Balestre. Out of the animosity came the celebrated Concorde agreement, the mandate by which F1 would be run for the next 16 years.

Today Mosley is the president of the FIA, Fisa's successor, and Ecclestone is its vice-president of marketing. and now it is them against the rams. When a new Concorde agreement was drawn up last year, Frank Williams of Williams, Ron Dennis of McLaren and Ken Tyrrell of Tyrrell refused to sign it. When they expressed dissatisfaction with some of its terms most observers expected their objections to be overcome by the time the season started. But eight months later the differences have still to be resolved, and an impatient Mosley has threatened to dissolve the agreement altogether. Talk of legal action by the teams is escalating. Ecclestone's as yet unsuc-

cessful plans to float F1 have tended to cloud the issue, according to one team owner who wished to remain anonymous. Part of the argument concerns the money the teams expect to receive from any flotation, but he said: "It is also about our intellectual rights. Our right to capitalise on our own trademarks and logos, and to expect and receive remnneration from any rights involving them that the FIA sells, such as in the form of electronic game rights. Why should they sell our trademarks if we don't receive income from that sale?"

The FIA wants the teams to sign a new agreement and CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

- 1 J Valeneuve (Can) 77pts
- 2 M Shumacher (Ger) 68 3 H-H Frentzen (Ger) 35
- 4 D Coulthard (GB) 30 5 J Alesi (Fr) 28
- 6 G Berger (Aut) 24 7 G Fisichella (It) 20
- a E irvine (GB) 18
- 9 O Panis (Fr) 16 10≈ M Hakkinen (Fin) 14 · J Herbert (GB) 14

Remaining grands prix: Tomorrow, Japanese GP, Suzuka; 26 Oct, Grand Prix of Europe, Jarez. promises to incorporate

changes proposed by the teams. once this has been done. The teams want the changes incorporated beforehand. "In the real world," the own-

er said, "it is the sort of thing that would be settled in an afternoon. But reason, logic and responsibility are not things you expect to find in F1." Another owner, who also

wished to remain unidentified. said: "The situation is building up for an all-out conflict. This has all the makings of a very difficult winter for F1."

Against this unsettling backdrop, the championship contenders were upstaged by Eddie Irvine, Ralf Schumacher and Olivier Panis, who exploited fresh tyres to set the fastest times in yesterday's training session. Michael Schumacher ended the day only 10th fastest,



Photograph: Sadayuki Mikami/AP yesterday, makes his way into the Suzuka pits

sic set-up today. I stopped early this afternoon, because I had finished today's planned programme and I did not want to use another set of tyres."

Nevertheless, the Ferrari's performance has bolstered the German's hopes. Though Ferrari technicians have been tightbenefited from a new system

but said: "We worked on the ba- hance performance. Ferrari only recently complained about a similar system used by McLaren. Tyres proved a problem for Villeneave, who was 11th fastest, after he damaged one of his seven allotted sets by flat-spotting

a tyre under heavy braking. As a result, the Canadian will have to compromise on his lipped on the subject, Schu- track time in today's official macher is believed to have qualifying session. "We improved the car a lot already which electronically modulates there is still a lot to come out the engine's torque curve to en- of it so I am very confident."

JAPANESE GRAND PRIX (Suzukat): Leading times after free practice: 1 E Irvine (GS)
Festari firsh 38903sac (av speed 332632
roph/219445 loph): 2 R Schumscher (Gar) Jondon-Peupect 1:38941; 4 H-H Franzen (Ger)
Millome-Pennadt 1:38941; 4 H-H Franzen (Ger)
Willome-Pennadt 1:38940; 7 D I-Bit (GS) Arrowa-Varneist 1:38940; 7 D I-Bit (GS) Arrowa-Varneist 1:38940; 7 D I-Bit (GS) Arrowa-Varneist 1:38940; 7 D I-Bit (GS)
McLaren-Marraceles 1:38940; 1 D I-Bit (GS)
McBarra-Fannadt 1:40480; 1 D I-Bit (GS)
Hastidinen (Fir) McLaren-Mercedes 1:40736;
15 R Berrichello (Bra) Stewart-Ford 1:40900;
16 J McSato (Fir) Krital-Ford 1:42597; 20 P OIriz (Bra) Arroware (Jene) Stewart-Ford 1:42590;
19 M Sato (Fir) Krital-Ford 1:42597; 20 P OIriz (Bra) Arroware-Narenten 1:42593; 21 G Morbiolali (II) Sauber-Petrones 1:44736; 22 T

### Villeneuve's title, Williams' glory

If Jacques Villeneuve becomes Formula One world drivers' champion in Suzuka, Japan, tomorrow his team, Williams-Renault, will applaud him. Deep down, however, says Derick Allsop, they will feel that the real success is theirs.

No one within motor racing can genuinely believe that Jacques Villeneuve is the best driver in the world, just as few would seriously claim Damon Hill was last year. Michael Schumacher remains a class apart: and that suits Williams-Renault fine.

Williams are on the verge of hiring and firing of drivers. It is generally accepted that had Schumacher been in a Williams instead of a Ferrari this season he would have secured the cham-

nionship long ago. The Oxfordshire-based team have taken much criticism for "losing" world champions. Nelson Piquet, Nigel Mansell, Alain Prost and Hill all left them after winning the title. There has been speculation this year that Villeneuve might join the tri-

umphal exodus. But then Williams view racing as a team game and the driver as another member of that team. Rather than blow the budget on retainers they prefer to invest in the next car. They pulled out of the hidding for Schumacher two years ago because they felt \$20m (£12.5m) a season was too high a price to pay. Their track record indicates

their business sense is not awry. Motor racing's critics say it cannot be a true sport because the car and not the driver is seen as the important factor. But Patrick Head, Williams' technical director, argues a success for anyone other than Schumacher would not devalue the championship. Head said: There has seldom been a

best car. Being world champi- caught in a crosswind yesterday. on does not prove you are the best driver in the world. Win- attend his head-to-head meetning is a team effort and the driver is part of the equation.

"Jacques is not as adaptable and good in all conditions as : middleweight title fight at the Schumacher is, Schumacher is : a more complete driver. But . Jacques is still in his second season of Formula One."

Villeneuve with Heinz-Harald Frentzen rather than Hill this sea- time and doing some posing. He son and although the German ' may pose, but I will be pressing has had a generally uncomfort- ; him for every minute of every able ride Head contends there is a round. When I catch him propno evidence the Englishman is erly he will go definitely. any better than the Canadian.

up Damon in terms of perfor- Organisation featherweight timance in the second half of last tie defence against Jose Badila record minth constructors' title, season, but then when you are lo. dropped his guard to pay the as well as the individual prize, and ahead you have to put a hit greatest compliment he has afthey will consider Villeneuve's more conservatism in your dri- forded an opponent. Hamed coronation as both confirmation ving, whereas the man chasing said the Puerto Rican No 1 of their combined superiority and you has less to lose. So I mandatory challenger will pre-

> Jacques is that he is a very individual character, a very fine and derided anyone sitting driver, and quite a lot of teams : alongside him at news conferwould like to have him."

> may not have seen the best of, one defeat in 21 contests. Villeneuve or Williams this season because of the driver's "individual" preference on set-up. erweight champion, Tom

> opinion on settings, although we : times during a 1995 challenge haven't had the stand-up rows for the American's title, but the that have been reported," Head judges went for Johnson. said. "Jacques likes stiffer settings, whereas we believe softer . settings would be more appro- have also boxed, demands repriate and productive. This is spect," Hamed said. "He probsomething we are going to have ; ably caught Johnson in a better to work on over the winter."

leneuve's way after Schumach- definitely put him at the top." er was shunted out of the Luxembourg Grand Prix a fortnight ago, by his youngster brother. Ralf. The Suzuka circuit should suit Villeneuve and his car, and Head is amious to avoid a last-race decider, at

Jerez, Spain, in a fortnight. Head said: "The same thing that happened to Michael at the : Reading Nürburgring could happen to Jacques and I wouldn't feel desperately happy going to Jerez, : with say, a three-point lead. We'd like to finish it at this race."

#### BOXING

#### **Eubank's** build-up grounded

Whether or not it was a blast of hot air was unclear, hut Chris champion who has not had the Eubank's hired helicopter was meaning that he was unable to ing with Joe Calzaghe in Sheffield before tonight's vacant World Boxing Council super-Sheffield Arena.

"I expect to stop him," Calzaghe said as the press con-; ference went ahead minus one Williams elected to partner of the combatants. I think he will fight a cagey fight, hiding his

Nascem Hamed, who tops Head said: "Jacques caught the bill with his World Boxing vindication of their policy on the wouldn't like to split the two, sent the toughest challenge of "What I will say about his 28-bout career.

Hamed has often belittled ences, but there seemed gen-Head also takes the view we uine appreciation for a man with

Badillo had the International Boxing Federation feath-"We have a difference of Johnson, on the floor three

To do what he did to Tom Johnson, a champion who I state than me and yet he put him The title balance shifted Vil- down three times. So I would

HOCKEY

### Pearn back to reinforce

Reading have a testing weekend ahead as the Premier League stages back-to-back fixtures to allow for postponements when England go to Cairo at the end of the month.

The defending champions, who started the season with an emphatic victory over newly promoted Doncaster, visit Canterbury this afternoon and entertain Old Loughtonians lomorrow.

They welcome back the New Zealander Karl Sanders and the England international Mark Pearn, who was rested last week after playing in the World Junior Cup.

Reading have registered the Canadian international Tobin Seagal, while Old Loughtonians. who hope to have their captain, Ian Morrison, back following a hand injury, have also turned to the Maple Leaf with the signings of John Mackinon and

Glen Prebble. Teddington will be coming home to the pitch they used for their home games last season when they visit Hounslow this afternoon. They play Southgate away at their new ground at Trent Park on Sunday.

#### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

#### Football

Football
3.0 unless stated
RA CUP Third qualifying round: Gainsburgugh
Trety v South Shields: Halfax v Caset Town;
Chorley v Restor: Whisterd v Amount; Hydrix
Ryhose CA: Entery Baber; North Perflay v Greray; Blyth Spartaria v Nortacyc, Marke v Lincoln
led; Guiselay v Barniff; Nurseann Borough v
Struthridge; Kettering v Hindday Und; Bromegrown Routes v Procester; Knypaniday Viotins in
Spalding; Halesower; Knypanida;
Kingti
Spalding; Halesower; River v Radding; Kingti
Spalding; Halesower; River v Radding; Kingti grove Rovers v Pocesier, Krigoristy Viscon v Spelding; Hatesower Rover v Recifich; Kingli-Lard w V8 Aputor, Haybridge Swifts v Fleckwish Health; Bognor Regis v Coopton; Stringbourne v Langwer, Sutten Live v Rodnidge, Sough v Langwer, Stringt Lav v Rodnidge, Sough v Langwer, Margaret v Meuritaire Planting v Rominor. Harrison: Margaret v Death Hauffing v British Rovers: Margaret v Death Hauffing v Strin & Belwadere; Challement v Paulton; Youri v Chyponitians, Operchaser v Theorier, Salestony v Burnin; Schucessey v Belandoville.

Rount, Whitby v Whitey Bay, League Cup tinstround replayer, Albeion v Medicels, Leigh Rus v Worldoglon.
OR MARTIENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Bittle Committee of the Committee o V Workington:

OR MARTIEMS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Biath
City v Createy 20; Cambridge City v Athestone;
Forest Green Rovers v Burton Abion; Gradey
Rovers v Rotwel; Hastings v Merityr Yoffi;
Brownth v Ramord, Mediesel Olvision: Baceventh v Ramord; Bladerst Olvision: Baceventh v Ramord; Signerst V Blader;
Rengers v Stafford Ranger; Renge Clab Warwick v Suston Coldibid; Shepshed Dynamo v
Grantham; Southare Division: Farstham v Cinderford; Fleet v Baldock; Newport AFC v Treetransport (DW) v Clawedon;
Weston-super-Mere v Weymouth; Yabev Hasen;
Weston-super-Mere v Weymouth; Yabev Hasen;
Canterbury v Bedenham; Graemaich Borrough
v Follestone Invicts; Hythe v Erith Town; Swenlay Furness v Herne Biay.

UNAJET \$USSEE; COUNTY LEAGUE First DiUNAJET \$USSEE; COUNTY LEAGUE First Dr-

v Follestone Indicat, rythm v start town v Follestone Indicat, rythm v start town v Funds v Hume Bay.

UNBLET SUSSEC COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Anutial v Shoreham; Hassocks v Pagitam; Ringmar v Portifiald; Saledsan v Horsham VACA; Salesay Essibutions Does; White-frank v Burgste Hit; Wick v Racha, John O'Harsham V AcCA; Salesay Essibutions Does; White-frank v Burgste Hit; Wick v Racha, John O'Harsham v Landong; Pescelation v Michards.

LHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Dividences; Bourne v Stewarts & Loyds Corby; Bunkingham Kown v Kampaton; Co-Corby; Bunkingham Kown v Research; Wallingham V Fort Sports; Socioti v Stembert; Wallingham V Fort Sports; Socioti v Stembert; Wallingham V Fort Sports; Socioti v Stembert; Wallingham V Bestorth.

SEREWIND DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Dividence Poli-Schelming Division v Michael Michae

V Bishcrith
SCHEINFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Pramier Disslott Backwaf v Bisharot Bridgert Meterians
British Ferm v Bridginger; Chart v
Reynstans, Odd Down V Barnstecks; Tomingson
V Bridgingson
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pramier Orlestons Arnstrone Weiters v Thackey,
Curson Astron v Darnsty, Esclashil v Heiters
(Gesethoughton Weiters v Haudrist); Hattiget
Mein v Meiby; Liversedge v Seby; Pictering v
Portsback; Sheffled v Ossett Ablan.

MARTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Flest bi-MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Float Di-

Rowers v Moseley, Checkerton v Vesechell GM; Gloseco North End v Ciliterous; Holler Clot Boys v Atherion Collerins; Nantwich v Burscough; Receptule v Newcaste Town; St Helene v Wes-ringlan; Selford v Ramebonton.

Sports: Newbury v Windome; Tettan v Downton; Aerostrustere v Windome; Tettan v Downton; Aerostrustere v Windome; Tettan v Downton; Aerostrustere v Windome; Estate; Est Cower Vest v Antower; Estateja v Bermeton Healt; Ryde Sports v Thatchem.
INTERLINK EIPPESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Berwell v Penthon; Kingh Norton v Halsaturen Harriss; Priled Viler & Biowelct; Ranhall Olympic v Bottoner St Michaels; Gandwil Bottogh v Stifnet; Suspensil v Michaels; Gandwil Bottogh v Stifnet; Willenhall v Chaselown.
ENSONI EASTERN LEAGURE utswestum teks telson LEAGNE Premier Dist-alant Canton-v-Histon, Diss v Tipfine, Byv Low-seich; Gorberon v Sudoury Westbergs, Herwich & Parlaceton v Weldon; Newymarket v Greet Yermoutis; Sobern v Februsiews, Stowmarket v Hainland; Sudbury Town v Bury Town.

Historick Suchury Town v Bury Town.
ARMOTT RESURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE
Flast Divisions Ellingtom Town v RTM Neuroselle;
Cornetiv Morpellt, Crock v Blingtom Synthonic;
Durhest v Shidor; Essington v Marton; Guisbortugh v Sedlington Tarriers; Northalamon v
Tow Lais; Seeben Red Star v Dureston FS; Stockton v Jacrose. SCOTTISH CUMUPANG CLP (NORTH) Third-

SCOTTISH GUNLEPAING CLIP PRORTING Trimbround replays Lossiamouth v Eigh City.
PRESS, & JOURNAL HIGH LAND LEAGUE!
Cove Rengers V Borze Bangers, Deveronvale v
Famedought, Fort William v Keith.
SMIRHOOFF BESS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Ballymont v Auft. Citisaville v Portadown; Colseller v Turngir; Crossaders v Genecam; Ge1800p v Limited. First Division: Ballydare
Comparison v Limitedy; Dungering Serta v Disfilling Limitedy; Dungering Serta v Bisfilling Limitedy; Dungering Serta v Bisfilling Comparison Serta v Disfilling Comparison Serta v Bisfilling Comparison Serta v Bisfilling Comparison Serta v Bisfilling Comparison Serta v Bisfilling Comparison Serta v BisCastalage v Har Cathe-led Caroff (2-20);
Castalage v Phyl 22:30; Castalage v Westpool

bran v Fint (250); Ebbar Vale v Consty (250). PONTRKS LEAGUE Premier Division: Livercook

Rugby League Super League visa world club Chan-Pionship Seni-lineis: Croule v Humer Rugby Union

3.0 unless stated
HEINEKEN CUP Pool A: Toulouse v Luinster (230, Pool C. Bath v Pontyprick (235, Pool D: Cardill v Bourgoin (230, Pool E: Llanell v Caledonia (23); Pau v Taviso (530). Caledonie (20); 190 v 1990 p (530).

BUROPEAN CONFERENCE Poel A: Agen v Ebbe Vate (70). Poel C: Fami Constants v Dax: (330); Statie Français v London Irlah (20). Poel D: Begles v Nos (70); Northumpton v Connecht. Poel E: Bridgend v Granuble (20). Poel P: Bridgend v Granuble (20). Poel P: Bigless v Toulon (730). Poel G: Blerritz v Newcassis (75). Poel H: Casitres v Newf (70).

costie (15). Pool H: Castres v Neath (20).

ALLIED DURBAR Premisership Two: Continuo Northry Robbertane; Pytic v Esser; London Scottish v Watasiett; Motaley v Badford; Watarioo v Orrel; West Hartlapool v Badford; Watarioo v Orrel; West Hartlapool v Baddord; Watarioo v Nest; Robbert V Morey, Badford V London Welsin; Rugby v Hardgate; Morcester v Wirerledels. Two North: Aspatrio v Mancleater; Bandel v Harddoy; Shettled v Winnington Perk; Walkell v Stoutridge. Two Soeth: Baddorg v Otton; Caroberley v North Walsham; Hebart V Bridgewate; Herley v Esh
ry Malinani; Hebart V Bridgewate; Herley v Esh
ry Mat Police v Chaterinaro; Plymouth v Weston-super-Mere; Ebard v Fadruth.

WELSH MATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: SECH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Div Abersion v Cross Keys (20); Abertillery v philly (20); Durvent v Rumney (20); Man Marthyr (20); Newholdge v Blackwood (20) v Flumony (20); Ma ton v Blackwood Co

typoci v Lieudovery (20); Treasthy v South Weles Police (20); LIMIC (Cardill Inst) v Bonymeen (20).

Gais; Glasgow Hisrks v Presion Lodge; Hisr-lot v Hertot PP; Malerse v Editburgh Acade; Musealizarja v Kircisety. Group its Berough-mur v Kirnemock; Dundes HSFP v Watton-ens; Jud-Frost v West of Scotland; Kelao v Paeties; String County v Bigget. Hockey

WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES PIEnier: Bath Bucce v Weston-super-Mare; Bris-ol Univ v Whitchurch; Chaltenham v Robinsons; Javedon v Titunion Valo; Saemana v Evater Univ.

Sactory v Cambridge City.

MORTH Premier: Ber frhydding v Wiger;
Chester v Timperley; Durhem Univ v Southport;
Herrogate v Shelfield Berless; Neston v Swalwelt; Norton v Fortholy.

ESL South Premier: Bournemouth v Winchester; Chichetter v Herne Ber; Eastcale v Purley; High Wycombe v Gore Court; Old
Writighters v Walderhead; Pamgarhie v Richmond; Tigerne v City of Portsmouth; Turbidge
Wells v Beckenham; Winblodon v Fareham;
Wolders x Thysportus THREE COUNTIES WOMEN'S THYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES First Division: City of Oxford v Wycombe Riye; Farnteen Common v Received. to Division: City of Oxford v Wycombe Riye; them Common v Brackrest; Millon Keynes Vast Wilney; Millon Keynes v Schning; New-v Meidenheed; Oxford Hanks v Ramalagh;

Speedway Rockethali Palact v Darby Storm (730); Watford Royals v Marchester Glants (730); 117 L&E Worthing Bears v Paugeot Bullets Berningham (8.0). Ice hockey

BENSON AND HEDGES Quester-timels: Ayr v NCtinglatin (50); Brackrell v Manchester (50); Newcastle v Basingstoke (530).

Other sports
BOXNG (Shelfeld Amera): WBO super middeweight titler C Eubark (Brighton) v J
Calzagrie (Newtridge): WBO super-featherweight: Prince Nessern Herned (Shelfeld, Indiadry v Lierens (Co); WBO tight-middleweighttitle eiterinator: O Grant (Can) v R Phodes
(Shelfield; WBO Inter-continented superfeather-weight titler D Philip (Levelstern) v P
Griffin (Dubin); British feather-weight titler P
India (Scarborough, holder) v J J Irwin (Donlinde (Scarborough, holder) v J J Irwin (Don-Griffin (Dublin); British teatherweight title; P Ingle (Scarborough, holder) v J J Inwin (Don-caster); WBO Inter-continental hosyyamajata title; P Raid (Shaffaki, holder) v U Lewelyn (Depthyd); Vacant British light-waterweight title; M Winters (Anthin) v C Weight (Inverpool); WBO Inter-continental middSavalade water num-controprial middleweight title. I itstifness (eington) v II Donngton (Eristo); Vacant WBO tries-continental cruisterweicht title (Class Charles). ties K Oliver (Lincoln) v (apponent that **GOLF:** World Mascripley Championship (Went

TOMORROW Football

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE LAND Premier Divisi Patrick's Athletic (30)

Rugby Union

PicLimericki
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE Pool A: La
Rochale v Bristol (20), Pool R: Montpelier v Neuport (20); Sale v Montberrand, Pool E: Richmond
v Colomiers (2:5); Pool F: Padowt v Glousester (2:30), Pool (5: Edichaugh v Perpighan (at
Goldensore). Pool H: Seracene v Nerborne (30).

Hockey Hockey
NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Bertord Tigers
v Beeston (Aumeel Community Centre 20);
Cannock v Concester (2:30; Centenbury v Guidtord (II); Hourstow v East Cantenbury v Guidtord (III); Hourstow v East Cantenbury v Guidtord (III); Hourstow v East Cantenbury v Hero20); Bournaile v Lowes (2:30); Bourley v Herostead & Westminster (III); Blocklandar v Shaffeld
(2:0); Cheinstord v Indian Gymridena (IV); Firebrands v Hamert (III); Gloucester City v Warrington (1:30); Harleston Magpies v Huil
(20); Chord Hamles v Stoupport (20); Coked Link
v Loughborough Students (2:0); Surbiton v St
Alberts (2:30).

Speedway CRAVEN SHIELD First round, first log: Covertry v Bradford (ED).

SCOTTISH CUP: Glasgow v Edinburgh (630). Basketball BLOWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle Eagles v Tharnes Velley Tigers (630); addas Greiter Lon-don Leopards v TIT L&E Worthing Betrs (50); Entde London Towars v Converse Crystal

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr v Nottingham (630); Shaffield v Navesalie (630); Bassigstole v Man-chaster (60); Carolff v Barcknet (60). Other sports

### 18/RACING

### ASCOT LAND OF DREAMS would be a snp here on tast ground after her very impressive win from Tippitt Boy at Ayr. That first try at five furlengs suited her pace, and she was only collared in the closing stages in the soft by Lady in Waiting at Newmantet (6f) on her HYPERION 2.00 Rabah 2.30 REGAL REVOLUTION (nap) 4.10 Winter Romance 4.40 La-Faah 3.00 Saafeya (nh) 5.15 Myrtle Quest 3.35 Ansellman 3.35 Anseliman GOING: Heavy. STALLS: Straight - stands side; round course - Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 51. Right-hand course with testing uphil finish. Course is near purction of A229 and A330, Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc 6). He coupts-landing facility at course (Heathrow Sm), Railway station (service from London, Welerico) adjoins course ADMISSIONE (CUE 22. Estimate 28. Silver Ring 25. CAR PARIC Free. LEADING TRAINERS: J Dumlop 28-59 (175%), J Goaden 20-33 (15%), H Cecil 18-97 (186%), P Cole 18-15 (157%), M Stoute 18-172 (105%), J Goaden 20-33 (15%), H Cecil 18-97 (186%), P Cole 18-15 (157%), M Stoute 18-172 (105%), J Goaden 20-33 (15%), J Read 28-250 (112%) M Hilbs 17-157 (10.8%), R Hilbs 18-33 (113%), J Waver 11-101 (109%). Favourities: 141-478 (28.5%), BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: Smooth Selling (140) 2.00 MCGEE AUTUMN STAKES (Listed) BBC1 (CLASS A) £18,000 added 2YO 1m £12,429 FORM GUIDE OR FONG beat a very well regarded sort inDistant Mirage at Newbury (good to firm). The form is hard to assess with so many newcomers in the race but Dr Fong was ridden some way out and should reish the extra furiong. The fifty Equity Princess is worth saving on. She is a proven stayer after her win at Ayr from Corniche, and sha went close against Golden Dice at Newcastle in August. Rabeth was a good second to Land A Hand in a mile nursery at Doncaster list time. Evening World rain clean sway with a poor race at York when the ground was testing. Selection: DR FONG -8 declared BETTING: 9-4 Saint Clei, 3-1 Mise Roberto, 9-2 Soldier Mais, 5-1 Vintage Taltinger, 12-1 Cam Rock, Transcollato, 18-1 Thrower, 20-1 Temptide, 25-1 Perturiano 1996: Stay With Me 5 11 4 J Osborne 5-1 (C Egenton) 9 ran FORM GUIDE BANGOR HYPERION SAINT CIEL, will take plenty of beating if the ground comes up soft. The nine-year-old ran Cha-Yo to two lengths first time back at Haydock last season and went on to win there off a 9th higher mark than today's next time. He was given a strarpener on the Flet at Newbury last month and ran really well to be third of 22 to Montecratio on his favoured soft ground. Virtuge Tellutinger has been unning well, but his latest run at Perth in third to Chester was disappointing. Miss Roberto had some useful form in juvenile hurdles in Ireland, wirming at Roscommon and Never, but was tailed off in the Triumph at Chellonham. She can win races to John O'Shea but has it to do under 12st today. The others are difficult to fancy, although Tremendisto had a recent sharpener on the Flet, while Soldier Mak, who last ran at Leleaster in August, does not appear badly treated. Selection: 2-10 Johnny-K 4.15 Millcroft Riviera 4.50 Raining Stairs 5.25 Curraduff Moil 2.40 Hackatts Cross 3.10 Saint Clel 3.40 Real Tonic GOING: Good GOING: Good. Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yds. Course is 4m SE of Westham near junction of AS2s and 85069. Bus service from Westham station ADMISSION: Paddock 59; Course 98 (under-tips fice all enclosures). CAR PARIC Free. LEADING TRANNERS: O Micholonn 12-43 (237%), O Richards 12-70 (71%), N Twistorn-Davies 9-58 (155%), J Mackle 8-48 (167%), Mira S Smith 8-57 (44%. LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 25-78 (316%), A Maguire 12-53 (226%), C Llewellyn 9-22 (773%), T Eley 9-88 (101%. A Thornton 6-51 (118%), R Johnson 5-41 (12.2%., FAVOURITES: 159-408 (39%), ELINKERED FRIST TIME: Sigme Run (240), Loughdoo (45), Annle's Kitchen (450) (visored). 3.40 WILLIS CORROON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C4 D) £7,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £4,720 2.10 THREAPWOOD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 53,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value 52,369 Minutum weight: 10st, True handcop weight: Cyrill Henry 9st 10th, BETTING: 9-4 Real York, 100-30 Bayord, 7-2 Glenfung Princess, Top Javalin, 8-1 Cyrill Henry, 16-1 Ghis Grasslagh 1996: Factor Yen 8 12 0 J F Titley 3-1 (Mes. H Knight) 4 ran FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE REAL TONIC did not reappear last season until February, when he fell at the fifth but had looked well beforehand. Gordon Richards' nuner went on to win at Kelso (zm. 11) next time and added successes at that course and at Hexham. Real Tonic has his share of weight but still appeals with doubts sumoundding the other runners. Top Javatin should have the cut underfoct that he needs and can be given every chance judged on his Newbury nowce handicap win from Major's Legacy in February. He ran just once more, going down a distance to Silverino in very testing ground at Newton Abbot. Bayerd, successful four times already this season, would have beatin Professor Page, who has wen twice more since, had he not fallen two out at Ultourter in August. He disappointed at Newton Abbot next time and was seasy brushed aside by Crack On in a small field at Chepatow last week. Cyrtill Henry is 480 out of the handicap, while Ghie Gneulah is down to a good mark but has not shown any worthwhile form for a long time. Gleriffinn Princess would pose a threat to all if able to produce her best, but she has had proteinms with burst blood vessels and was pulled up at Stratford on her latest run in July. Selection: REAL TONC BETTING: 9-4 Johnny-K, 4-1 Toby, 9-2 Crystal Jewel, 5-1 Red Neck, 16-1 Young Dalemann, 12-1 Oticlos, 14-1 Jill, 20-1 Jennier's Prospect, 25-1 Placelibra, Gunner B Special, 33-1 Mr Fudge 1996: Ba Meta 4 to 11 J Rainon 9-4 fav (Mrs A Swinbank) to ran 2.40 STADCO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £3,355 1 22F-1 COOLTEEN MERO (12) (D) (J P M & J W Cook) R Alner 7 ft 10 Pholley 2 PF-511 FED ON OATS (22) (John Kotler) Mes V Williams 8 ft 10 R J W Cook) 3 232\*11 HACKETTS CROSS (56) (C) (D) (G W Briscool) P Ecoles 6 ft 9 R J R Dameoody 4 11LE23 SIGMA RIM (12) (D) (K W Bell & Son Ltd.) J OShea 8 ft 10 13 Michael Brennens (3) B 5 1-1122 TEEJAYNA/ICH (16) (8F) (Andrew Pateson) J Golde 5 ft 11 Stylor (S) -5 declared - Stylor (S) BETTING: 5-2 Fed On Oats, 11-4 Teojay/malich, 3-1 Coolteen Hero, Hacketts Cross, 12-1 Sigma 4.15 THELWALL MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4f 110yds £3,599 C4 1996: Prince Skyburd, 5 to 0 A Maguire 8-11 fav (P Avison) 5 ran 3.10 NUMARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 C4

-	grade betta over she t Hoh since	e judge e judge er with o stx furk peat Sa Chi Mir o his Su ndi Bar	Tigolit Boy is 8th better today, but Land Of Dearns beat him may Alexander in the Molecomb to Goodwood. Mrs Malepard of on her clear-cut win at Cattenck a fortnight ago. Regait Reach run and is tough. All her wins (two with cut in the groupings and she had Thumkinghting (2th worse) over two length pophere Ring at Ayr last time-Regal Revolution confirming Sale on 8th worse terms. Lord Kintyre reverts to five furiongs fiper Sprint with from Pure Coincidence (a pound better off) a minigham Blade looks held on the Newbury form and she was not of the seams at Ayr. Selection: Let	evolution gets nd) have come is behind when soury form with or the first time I Newbury (fast
-			PRINCESS ROYAL STAKES (Group 3)(CLASS	BBC1
٢	∣3.	.00	A) £50,000 added fillies & mares 1m 4f £31,400	<u> </u>
7	1	1.6345	DENSE WITH LS (RR) (D) (Souderta Pieffeg SAS) P Bary (P) 4 0 0	_ T Jamet 6 105
9			Red, dark blue apauléts, red csp. yellow star SNOW PRINCESS (31) (D) (Lord Weinstock) Lord Huntingdon 5 8 0 - 1	
•	2		Pola hiue. While & Velicov check (CSC)	
_	3	440404	ALCALALLARGA (#S) (Louis H Norm) P Kulkusy 3 8 7	K Felfon 3 95
ì	4	213	Emerald green, vallow skews, emerald green & red housed cap BOMBAZINE (25) (Genild Leigh) L Cumani 3 8 7	JReld 196
Ī	•		Person, before chartons on body	O Pesiler 2 V 96
S	5	234214	DELILAH (13) (Highdiare Racing) M Stoute 3 8 7	Q   Queston 2 7 30
•	6	621162	Light bite, dark blue armites, dark blue cap GRACEFUL LASS (13) (D) (A M Budgett) D Loder 3 8 7	<b>T Cul</b> ton 0 99
5	7	.53 <b>12</b> 1	Salmon park, grey sleares, quartered cap SAAFEYA (14) (Sheikh Ahmad Al Maktoum) J Gosden 3 6 7	_L Dettori 4 84
3	•		Yellow, black eptulettes, yellow cap - 7 declared -	
4	RETT	NG: 5.2	Printe Wells, 7-2 Saateya, 4-1 Bombazine, 11-2 Delliab, Scow Printe	cess, 6-1 Grace-
	64 f a	es 16-1	Alcalal	
	1996:	Time Al	lowed 3 6 7 J Reid 15-2 (M Stoute) drawn (4) 11 ran FORM GUIDE	
	SNO	W PRII	NCESS, a confirmed autumn mare has the ground very much	h in her tavous.
1	She t	turned HB at Z	in a typical run on ground too fast for her when staying on Concaster last time. Reline Wells also has the ground in her	favour, though
	har to	No.	modest Group company may not be good enough for this.	Saadeva is im-
	provi	ng and, vd. She	with Sadler's Wells being her sire, she has a good chance defied a weller burden in a filles' handican at Haydock & for	or nanowng the thight ago and
	her p	revious	defied a welter burden in a filles' handcap at Haydock a for Doncester second to Mithell is rock-solid form with Mithall winn ntal (third) such a good second in the Cambridgeshire. Sas	ang again since
	cet to	nday 5	loncer 1710. While there was little between Graceful Lags an	d Degien over
1	the c	ourse a	and distance in the Harvest Stakes 13 days ago. Selection: 5	SNOW PRINCESS
	2	25	WILLMOTT DIXON HANDICAP (CLASS B)	BBC1
1	3.	<del></del>	£25,000 added 5f Penalty Value £18,238	
)	1	616501	TEDBURROW (13) (CD) (P Davies) E Alsten 5 to 0	.K Fallon 10 116
	2 1	000044	CROFT POOL (9) (D) (Countrywide Classics) J Glover 8 0 12	. G Carter 9 117
•	3	2.0004	Yellow, red inverted mangle & cap	L Dettori 1 115
7			AZIZZI (21) (C Brasher) C Egerton 5 9 2	
)	4	620510	RUDI'S PET (21) (D) (Broedgele Partnersho) R Harmon 3 8 8 . C Low Red, white disc, black & white striped sleeves	ther (5) 11 B 114
	5	002306	DANCETHENIGHTAWAY (8) (D) (G A Bosley) B Meeten 3 8 7	J Reid 5 92
•			Black, and braces & serves PATSY GRAMES (8) (D) (J K Grimes) J S Moore 78 7	
,			Light blut & crarge stripes, crance sleeves	
5	7	144320	SURPRISE MISSION (31) (D) (D R Brothertzn) Mrs J Ramsden 5 8 7 Light blue, white hoop & armiets	Fortene 3 113
,	8	332012	ANSELLMAN (14) (D) (Ansels of Wattord) J Berry 7 8 2	966y (3) 4 B 111
	9 1	000000	Purple, white chevron hoop, amilets & cap REPERTORY (31) (D) (M S Saunders) M Saunders 4 8 2	S December 9 110
5		UMMAN)	ried & Vellow (Delved), Statives Jevelsed, vallow cap, Jad Spots	
•	10	126012	DISTINCTIVE DREAM (?) (D) (K hory) K hory 3 8 2	n Dwyer 0 B 105
,	Ħ		GONE SAVAGE (84) (D) (BF) (The Square Fable) W Museon 8 8 1	
	12	Purpie,	emerald graen epaulets, emerald green steeres, purple emilitis, emerald	graen cap 1 Outon 7 104
7	-	J4424	SHALSTAYHOLY (9) (D) (J.B.R. Lesure Ltd) G.L. Moore 3.7 12	
_	•	200227	I DUE I DO CO COM COMO DIAMENTO I MAN IL COMPANIO STATE DE DE	march (3) 13 117

Pirk, gray spots & elevers, pirk, esp 2053/3 LEVELLED (7) (U) (EF) (Maggain Ltd) M Channon 3 7 th .............R Parench (3) 13 117 Royal bias, white Invested transfer - 13 declared -Alliamum weight: 7ct 10th. True handidap weight: Levelled, 7ct 6th BETTING: 4-1 Surprise Mission, 5-1 Azizzi, 7-1 Palay Grimes, 8-1 Tedburrow, 9-1 Statelaryholy, 16-1 Ansellman, Gone Savago, 12-1 Distinctive Dream, Rudi's Pel, 14-1 Croft Pool, 16-1 Decenteralightaraxy, 20-1 Levelled, Ropertory 1996: Tadeo 3 8 t2 M Roberts 20-1 (M Johnston) drawn [14] 17 ran

Stammer Squall won from a stands ade draw yesterday so Asizzal, PATSY GRIMES and Surprise Mission can all be considered with their draw. The runner to like in the teating conditions is Patsy Grimes, an in-form mane who got up late to best Anseillann (2b better) at Haydock a forlnight ago. Patsy Grimes also gets a 6th pull for the Sandown beating by Rudi's Pet, who has a high draw here. Surprise Mission (hampered early in the Portland) strolled home in temble ground at Chester in May and his course second to Plessingnidsguise gives him every chance today with Olivier Pesiler booked. Azizzi, an excellent fourth to Wildwood Flower in the Ayr Gold Cup, ran fast in the heavy ground when second to Tomba at Newcastle (6t) in June. Rudburrow faces a stern test under for after his course win on the fast from Crowded Avenue, and a weller burden may also find out the back-to-form Crowl Panal. These isn't much in choose between off rivers Plefind out the beck-to-form Croft Pool. There isn't much to choose between old rivals Distinctive Dream and Shellstayholy, but Dencethenightaway (drawn five) has won in the soft and is weighted to beat the pair on York running in August. Selection: PATSY GRIMES 4.10 FINANCIAL DYNAMICS RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) 220,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Valua £12,521

FORM GUIDE

r Squall won from a stands ade draw yesterday so Azizzi, PATSY GRIMES and

In the Carrier - In General - I

4	40	HYPERION STAKES (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2YO 7f Panalty Value £7,178
	•+0	Panalty Value £7,178
1		CHIPS (21) (D) (Lucayan Stud) D Boworth 9510 Peoliter 5
2	16	JAZZ CLUB (USA) (SS) (LYS Farsh II) P Cole 6 18 T Quitan 2
3	016400	BATSWING (23) (Richard Withers) M Meade B 11 K Fellon 3 B
4	10	LA-FAAH (53) (C) (Hamdan Al Maksouri) B Has 8 11
5	122503	SMOOTH SAILING (24) (A R Parish) K McAuttle 8 11
		- 5 declared -
BET	TING: 6-4	La-Fash, 3-1 Jazz Cleb, 7-2 Chips, 7-1 Betweing, 18-1 Smooth Selling
1996	k Andreys	ev B 13 M J Kmane 100-30 (R Hannon) drawn (4) B rain
	-	

5.15 DUKE OF EDINBURGH HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 1m Penalty Value £9,378 

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weights: Caudito 7st 9th, Prenonemoss 7st 5th BETTING: 5-1 Mythe Quest, 6-1 Test The Water, 7-1 Phonetic, 6-1 Desert Track, 16-1 Dummer Colf Time, 2urs, Mitrix, 12-1 Abajerny, Musick House, Sycamore Boy, Polish Rhythm, 14-1 Plan For Profit, 10 Fector, Rock Felcon, 20-1 others 1996: High Premum 6 8 12 A Culture: 14-1 (R Felbey) drawn (7) 24 ron

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

MILLCROFT RIVIERA is built for luming tences and did really well on his chasing debut at Everer to beat a firther and more experienced No Light (successful twice since) half 
a length, ratiying gamely after appearing to blow up on the run-in. He might only have 
been second had Faustino not fallen two out, but that rival showed himself to be useful 
by easily winning at the same course next time. Royal York in the clear alternative in receipt of a stone. Gordon Pichards' mare scored times times over hurdles last season but 
there may just be a doubt about her on soft ground, it's a long time ance Forest Feetliner won a race and he is har dly improving, while Latest Timps has stood little racing and 
is likely to need the run. Manasita landed a Warwick novice hurdle by three lengths from 
El Freddie on the last of three runs last season.

Selection: MILLCROFT RIVIERA

4.50 GREENALLS INN PARTNERSHIP 'NH' NOVICE C4 

Rhythm Rock's efforts in Ireland suggested the lacks hrishing kick and that proved to be the case in two runshere in the spring. Stormytairweather proved too strong on soft ground at Towcester and he was again done for speed in third to Morpheus at Uttoweter when stepped up in distance. Brightim Rock is a leading contender, but RAINING STAIRS could be the one to do him for pose. He has been competing over longer hips and seemed to lack stamine when fourth to Peritlands Flyer at Perth in April. That was the case at Stratford on his return, where he was sorth to Supreme Charm. Follow De Call had had plently of charnes prior to beating Roy Grig over course and distance a month ago, Bulko Boy jumped poorly when fourth to Scarlet Rambler at Stratford recently and had shown Insted ability in bumpers last season. FORM GUIDE

5.25 BANGOR STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added fillies & mares 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,287 

BETTING: 7-4 Royal York, 9-4 Milleroft Riviera, 4-1 Minnesis, 8-1 Forest Fasther, 18-1 Latest Thyrie, Holders Hill, 20-1 Loughdon, 33-1 Sexon Fair 1996: The Last Fling 6 10 12 R Guest 10-11 fav (Mrs 5 Smith) 8 ran — 10 declared —
BETTING: 6-4 Curradulf Moll, 6-1 Jaquies Glen, 6-1 Barton Chic, Jowoody, 16-1 Minybridge Lady,
Bowl Of Gold, 12-1 Chat in The Box, Lotschberg Express, Eliopassoff, 18-1 Mins Moonstone, Accordion Blaze, 20-1 Indysue, 33-1 others
1996: Lady Rebocca 4 Ti 3 A Megure 7-2 (Mes V Williams) 18 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Old Dr Rocket is nearly always threadouts and should test some of these newcorners, but FRENO, who was beginning to get it together over hurdles last season, may do even better now he tackles lences, if he does, he is on a handy mark, and being a hall-brother to the smart Waterloo Boy must count for something. Bupermick tines lences for the first time and comes here if throm the Flot. He is rated on a par with Freno on their hurdling form and he should be the one to beat with a clear round. High Daniels and Indian Run have seen better days and Spring Sunrise, off for a season after talling at Hurringdon in May 1996 and on the floor again there on her reappearance in August, has more chance if she keeps her feet.

Selection: FRENO

4.30 TIBBERTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) E6,300 added 2m 4f 110ydB Penalty Value £4,273 C4

### **PUNTERS' GUIDE**

ASCOT

2.00: Dr Fong, unbeaten and trained by Henry Cecil, will be a popular choice, buy RABAH, who howed much improved form when second in a competitive Doncaster oursery last time, is likely to pro-000

2.30: Land Of Dreams was an emphatic winner of the Group Two Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster, but is penalised 5lb for that win. Proven on soft ground and the winner of five of her seven starts, REGAL REVOLUTION holds Thanksgiving on recent Ayr form over six furlongs and should not be inconvenienced by dropping back in trip on this very testing ground. 

3.00: SAAFEYA has been brought along steadily in typical John Gos-den style and looks ready to step up into Group company. Yet to race on a soft surface, as a daughter of Sadler's Wells she should not be troubled to cope with it.

3.35: The old campsigoer ANSELLMAN relishes soft ground and is handicapped to turn the tables on his recent Haydock conqueror Patsy Grimes. Both have a helpfully low draw.

BANGOR 3.10: SAINT CIEL, who is fit from the Flat, could hold the edge over Miss Roberto, who looks the pick of the weights on last season's form. but has been off the track for some 

3.40: REAL TONIC, who stays well, comes from a stable capable of getting its horses fit enough to score on their seasonal debuts

### HYPERION'S

and should outclass his rivals. The course and distance winner Bayerd is in good heart and should pose most problems.

alexa

jk:™°°C.

41.30

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4.15: MILLCROFT RIVIERA, who beat No Light by half a length over 2m 1f 110yds at Exeter last time. should have no problems with the longer trip here and looks the sort to improve. Royal York is the dan-

4.50: RAINING STAIRS, who caught the eye when staying on nicely to be sixth to Supreme Charm over 2m 6f 110yds at Stratford, looks capable of a great deal

better. Rythm Rock is a threat. WORCESTER 3.25: EUPHORIC ILLUSION: 6/4 lengths third to Major's Law over 2m 4f et Bangor last time after be-

ing hampered, can gain compen-sation here. Bamapour is the obvious threat. 4.00: HUGH DANIELS, well bent en in novice chases in his two outings this term, nevertheless figures on a handy mark in handicap com-

pany and might spring a surprise. Freno may give him the most to do... 4.30: DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL, aprogressive sort last season, starts the campaign on a fair mark and can carry on the good work. Fine

Thyne is the danger.

Boy would be my best chance,

but Legs Be Friendly is certainly no mug. Legs Be Friendly has

er running him over the wrong

trip, and there is not a lot be-

Con Collins: "I would not say

best [after she worked on Tudg" day]. I felt the work would

leave her at her best for the

Peter Walwyn: "Regal Revolu-

tion is in good form. Land Of

Dreams is the one we all have

to beat But Regal Revolution

will be getting 6lb from her and.

David Chappell: "I was ex-

pecting Thanksgiving to have

that could prove useful.".

tween the pair at home."

				_					
1987	88	89	_90	91	92	93	94	35	96
A_	В	2	14	5/20	2	A	21	1/19	. 15
Α	2	D	D	3	3_	A	D	1J	D
٨	8-1	10-1	25-1	11-1	9-1		12-1	8-1	20-1
٨	8.13	9:10	7:1	831	7.9	A	93	8.7	812
Α	2.	12	4	13	11	A	- 10	22	76
A	9	. 4	4	- 14		×	o	,	- 5
Favo	xurite	6 -£3	50 5	econd	Fevo	urfter	+£1	00 ,	
aced	Tat,	2nd o	r 3rd	in lasi	race	75%			
Cumi	brien	Waltz	er (196	39) & C	coasta	d Bluf	(199	5) 8-1	:
cehe	rrv fi	990) :	25-1			-		-	
	A A A A Favo	A B A 8-1 A 8-1 A 8-1 A 2. A 2. A 2. Cumbran	1987 88 89 A B 2 A 2 D A 8-1 10-1 A 8.13 910 A 2 12 A 3 3 Favourities - 23 aced 1st, 2nd of	1987 88 69 90 A B 2 14 A 2 D D A 8-1 10-1 25-1 A 8.13 910 7:1 A 2 12 4 A 9 9 4 Fewourities -£3.50 S aced 1st, 2nd or 3rd	1987 88 89 90 91 A B 2 14 5/20 A 2 D D 3 A 8-1 10-1 25-1 11-1 A 8.13 910 71 831 A 2 12 4 13 A 3 3 4 13 Favourities - £3.50 Second aced 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last Cumbrian Waltzer (1989) 8.0	A B 2 14 5/20 2 A B 2 D D 3 3 A 8-1 10-1 25-1 11-1 9-1 A 8.3 900 71 801 78 A 2 12 4 13 11 A 3 3 4 4 4 Favourities - £3.50 Second Fevourities - £3.50 Second Fevo	1987 88 89 90 91 92 93 A B 2 14 5/20 2 A A 8 2 D D 3 3 3 A A 8-1 10-1 25-1 11-1 9-1 A A 8.13 910 7:1 831 78 A A 2 12 4 13 11 A A 3 3 40 7:1 831 11 A A 5 3 4 4 4 A Favourities - £3.50 Second Fevourities aced 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 76% Cumbrian Waltzer (1988) & Coastal Bluf	A B 2 14 5/20 2 A 21 A 8 10-1 25-1 11-1 9-1 A 12-1 A 8.3 970 71 871 78 A 83 A 2 12 4 13 11 A 19 A 3 3 4 4 4 4 5 4 5 Favourities - £2.50 Second Fevourities + £1 aced 1st, 2nd or 3nd in last race: 75% Cumbrian Waltzer (1988) & Coastal Bluff (1998)	A B 2 14 5/20 2 A 21 1/15 A 2 D D 3 3 A D 1J A 8-1 10-1 25-1 11-1 9-1 A 12-1 8-1 A 8.13 9:10 7:1 851 78 A 93 8.7 A 2 12 4 13 11 A 19 22 A 3 3 4 1 1 A 0 22 A 3 3 4 5 1 A 3 1 A 0 C Fewourities -£3:50 Second Fewourities +£1:00 aced 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 76% Cumbrian Waltzer (1989) & Coastal Bluff (1995) 8-1

#### TRAINER TALK - CORNWALLIS STAKES

Rod Millman: "Lord Kintyre had a hard race at York and he didn't run up to form. He had been going through a growing been suffering from his trainphase and is is now bigger than he was in the summer. We let him down for a month and now we've got him fit again. He's spot on, really working well."

Mark Johnston: "Land Of Dreams is in great form. freme edous form. It is not ideal that she is carrying a penally for her Group Two win last time out, but there are no othor options. It is arguable she did col beat much at Doncaster, hui Darryll Holland has ridden her twice now and says she is top class. I don't think there are

Kevin McAuliffe: "On racecourse performance Tippitt

many top-class five-furlong

horses of any age, although I

wouldn't underrate a horse

to take on Regal Revolution like Lady Alexander." [who bear her by two lengths at Ayr] again. The five furlongs at Ascol may suit our filly better. than the six at Avr." FIRST SHOW

Asc	ot -	<b>- 3.</b> 3	35	
Horae	c	н	L	T
Azizzi	54	92	9-2	54
Surprise Massion	_5-1	4-1	7-2	5-1
Tedburrow	7-1	8-1	8-1	7.1
Palcy Grimes	9-1	94	7-1	8-1
Anselman	10-1	10-1	10-1	11-1
Gone Savage	9-1	12-1	10-1	12-1
Rud's Pet	11-1	12-1	_11-1	10-1
Shelatayholy	7-1	. B-1	12-1	12-1
Distinctive Dream	17-1	8-1	14-1	9-1
Croit Pool	22-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
Democratish taray	20-1	8-1	18-1	14-1
Loveligd	14-1	18-1	20-1	12-1
Ropertory	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Each way, e qua C – Coral, H – Willia				

Palicy Crimes	<u>8-1</u>	94_	<u> 7-1</u>	8-1	CO-MOR		П-2.	
Anselmen	10-1	10-1	10-1	11-1	Wilcuma	7-1	13-2	. 7
Gone Savage	9-1	12-1	10-1	12-1	Heritage	8-1	13-2	7
Rudi's Pet	11-1	12-1	_11-1	10-1	Cugina	9-1	8-1	6
heistayholy	7-1	. B-1	12-1	12-1	Dunish Rhupson		94	4
Istinctive Dream	17-1	8-1	14-1	9-1	Greatstead			
roit Pool	2-1	16-1	16-1	14-1		14-1	12:1	_14
Denositra ighterey	20-1	8-1	18-1	14-1	Promier Bay	14-1	16-1	- 4
welled	14-1	18-1	20-1	12-1	Another Time	12-1	16-1	14
Ropertory	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	Lomberto	20-1	15-1	.14
Each way, e qua C – Coral, H – Willar					Each wey, a C - Cora		s, places 1, 2 HI, T-Tale	

LONGCHAMP - SUNDA	<u>Y</u>
2 30 GRAND CRITERIUM (Group 1) Fign 706 ad	

	2.30 GRAND CRITERIUM (Group 1) £190,796 added 2YO 1m Penalty Value £112,233
	1 121 ALBOOSTAN (30) (D) (Harrion & Molecum) D teach some an
	2 MAZ CARROWICEE. (10) (Sreich Marvan Al Markoum) B His (GB) 80
1	4 520 WORMS (11) (A Souta) H Van de Poele 8 0
	5 II SECOND FURISE CON JOHN ON THE THE SECOND SCHOOL SCHOO
1	The second secon
ì	
1	BETTING: 4-7 Second Empire, 7-2 Charge D'Affaires, 5-1 Albooster, Carrousteel, 33-1 Worse.
ì	1998: Revocute 0 0 J Red 4-5 lav (P Chapple-Hyam, GB) drawn (7) 9 ran

#### Big jackpot at Ascot

A Tote Jackpot pool of over the number of bets they wish to £335,000 was only partially won have. at Ascot yesterday, leaving a carryover of £238,492.58 brought forward to today's Ascot card.

Those wishing to try a permulation on the Jackpot races - the first six races - should simply decide how many selections that want to include in each of the six races and then multiply the numbers of selections in would cost £6.40. each race logether to calculate

For example, if a punter wishes to have two selections i. running in each race, the calculation is two x two x two x two x two x two = 64 bets. It will cost £64 to have such a permutation Io a full £1 stake but most book makers will accept permis starting at 10 pence per line, which - Tan Davies

ı	W	O	R	C	E	S	ľ	E	H	Ĺ	
					•					•=	 ٠
										_	

HYPERION 2.25 Margi Boo 4.00 Hugh Deniels 2.55 Mr Strong Gale 4.30 Destin D'Estruvai 3.25 Euphoric Illusion 3.25 Euphoric Illusion
5.00 Sound Appear

GOING: Good (Rur-in and southern bend - Good to Frm).

Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a one furlong rur-in.
Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate St) station in: AD-MISSION: Cub. Et3. Tatiersals £10. Silver Ring £550 (OAPs half-price). CAR PARK: Free except £2 into Ponce. Car Park.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 38-135 (281%). O Nicholson 26-79 (32.9%). K Battey 7 24-102 (23.5%). P Hobble 22-407 (20.6%, P Nicholise 12-49 (24.5%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 47-185 (28.5%). A Meguite 24-189 (51%). N Williamson 23-127 (18.1%). W Marston 14-183 (8.5%). R Johnson 13-83 (15.7%.

Favourities: 236-655 (55%).

ELRINGERED FIRST TIME: Dosses Dan (2.25), Vision Of Freedom (3.25). 5.00 Sound Appeal

2.25 BROCKAMIN AMATEUR RIDER SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m Penalty Value £1,951

Minimum weight: 10st, inve hendicap weights: Margi Boo 9st 13th, Merely Montel 3st 5th, Fire From Home Milliam weight: 10st true handsop weights: Margi Boo 9st 13th, Merely Montel 3st 5th, Fine From Home 9st 4th, Antim County 9st, Dosset Dan Ret. BETTING: 100-30 Captain Marmatante, 4-1 Margi Boo, 3-1 Fontamays, 13-2 Grand Applauss, 7-1 Hel-ham Tarn, 8-1 Merely Mortal, 12-1 Distant Storm, 16-1 Aldington Chapple, 20-1 Phrose, 25-1 others 1996: Hamdryad 8 10 13 Mr R Thomiton (7) 10-3 lav (Mrs V Ward) 14 ran

2.55 WARNDON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £2,955 

3.25 DOMESTIC APPLIANCE DISTRIBUTORS HTCAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,850 added 2m 4f £3,451 C4 

Exphoric Illusion stepped up in grade at Bangor four weeks ago and, as well as ne ran, he was held by Major a Law winner sence) when pecking badly at the Intal light. Bamapour's tactics could get him in trouble, Having being caught by Winsford Hill over the course and distance four weeks ago Bamapour has been re-fitted with blinkers at Market Rasen and turned the tables on Winsford Hill before hacking up in a three-runner race at Hersford. His superior fitness over most of these is a likely felling factor, though one that might hat his run is GIPBY GEOF. While it may not be until he goes over fences that we will sea the best of Gipsy Geot, he has done sufficient over hundles to make him a viable alternative to Bamapour at tha weights. He was not seen out until the end of March last season and then ran well for a long way behind Ring OI Vision to Towcester, and he was travelling strongly when falling four out in a two-miler at Strattord in May Two and a half miles is just about light for Hawker Huntler, who showed a return to form on the Flar when besten a neck in a 12-furiong handicap under Ost at Doncaster in June, Novice chasing last season, ha returns to hundling on a 12b lower mark and with a different trainer. Like Silver Standard, who finds his form early on, Hawker Huntler has a chance Selection: GIPSY GEOF

1001	3 18 600 1	
4	.00	DURR FINISHING POST HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 2m Penalty Value £2,655
_	•	DR ROCKET (136) (D) (The Rocketers) R Doken © 11 10 X Abzpuru (5) B Grey and red (quartered), while sleeves, red cap
2		(3) (D) (P Sadal R Hodges E n T T Dascombe (3) Red. white trale diamond, singer sleaves
3		SUPERMICK (F22) (D) (P Clarke) W Mur 6 11 4
		SPRING SUBRISE (47) (Mrs. 1) Vaughan) B De Haan T 10 4
5		FRENO (136) (P.A. Matthews) K. Bailey O. 10. 2
•	84-445	HUGH DANIELS (47) (Frent Hemsley) C Hemsley 9 10 0 Miss A Dudley (7) Black, red disc, yellow sweves, Llack and yellow quartered cap
		- 6 declared -

SETTING: 9-4 Supermick, 3-1 Franc. 7-2 Or Rocket, 4-1 Spring Surutsa, 5-1 Indian Rum, 20-1 Hugh Danielle 1999: Northern Optimist 6 TI 4 A P McCoy 5-2 IO Liewetyn) 6 ron

Manne, purple chevron, hopped steemes and cap 45446 LAKE OF LOUGHREA (12) (D) (BF) (Ms H J Duttey) K Bailey 7 100 ...N William Green and red (quariered), yellow steemes, red cap 5 declared – Mananum weight; 10st. True trandicap weight; Like Of Loughree 9st 11th. BETTING: 10-11 Destin D'Estruval, 3-1 Fine Thyrie, 5-1 Andrelot, 8-1 Monks Scham, 18-1 Lake Of Loughrea 1996: Philips Woody 8 to 10 J R Karanagh 2 t (N Henderson) 4 ran FORM GUIDE

Fine Thyre came back from a lengthly absence and had a sound time over lences last season, winning times times at Kempton (including a dead-heat with Berude Not To). This smart performer is likely to have another good year but has been unfortunate to have been drawn against OESTIN 0TESTRUVAL. He started off over hurdes last season and it was not until the reverted to charge that he showed his true worth with wins at Ayr (fortunate but sit a good performance) and over today's course and distance. Further improvement is likely from the sin-year-old and just now much he might have come on can be gauged from a linis-chase piece of work he did the other day. Months Software from comparative obscurity last season to win a small ruce at Market Rasen and then stop up on that by cipping profite winner Stately Home's wings on easier ground at Strateford. He is going the right way but sill has a quite a bit to find and the expenenced Andrelot is more kiely to run into a place. Lake Of Loughres is not the same horse he was in the 1995-96 season and may have his problems. Selection: DESTIN ITESTRUMAL

.00	LEIGH HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,925 added 3YO 2m Penalty Value \$2,280
	HITCHHIKER (Mass J M States) R Woodhouse 10 12
2P	KHAYAL (USA) (45) (Gordon James Cossey) F Murphy 10 12 L Aspell (3)
2	PRAIRE MINSTREL (USA) (28) (Martin Brook) R Olden 10 2 L Cullety
	RON'S ROUND (F12) (Formib) C Dwyer 10 12
U322	SLIEMA CREEK (26) (BF) (Jack Joseph) P Hobbs 10 12 A Maguire
	WINDLE WILLE (F106) IChelproam Rooms   Mee V Williams 10 17 N Williamson
P	APRIL JACKSON (26) (FIN Framel) P Deliver 13.7 R. Thornton (2)
	GROVEFAIR DANCER (F21) (J E Price) F Yardey 10 7 W McFarland
	I to

- 10 declared - 11-2 Roris Round, 13-2 Sound
Appeal, 10-1 Moonspell, 14-1 Khayal, 20-1 Hitchhilder, 25-1 others
1998: Agdests 3 10 7 L Harvey 5-4 fav (H Thomson Jones), 12 run

great confidence, though it

### Lady can bring Johnston's Dreams to earth

Land Of Dreams was a brilliant winner at Doncaster last month but she may have to give way to another outstanding filly, Lady Alexander, in this afternoon's Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot, writes Richard Edmondson.

Mark Johnston was 38 yesterday but he had little to cheer. The Middleham trainer caught the morning flight from Dublin to Newcastle following a rather unsatisfactory session at the Goffs Yearling Sales, "I went to buy 15 like I had done the previous year but I only got six," he said. "The hreeders, pinhookers and sales people were happier than I was because the horses were so expensive."

National Hunt enthusiasts and

those who mourn the long-

eparted quick-fire style of the

ITV Seven will have a pleasant

If Johnston is to revive his spirits it may be that he has to get hack on a plane to a foreign auction hall, however. It was while the trainer was at the Keeneland September Yearling Sales in Kentucky that an animal from Kingsley House put up one of the most eye-catching displays of the season at Doncaster's St Leger meeting.

The Flying Childers Stakes witnessed the sort of acceleration from Land Of Dreams that you would more readily associate from a mechanical vehicle in the Nevada desert. "Her win that day wasn't a surprise for us though the manner of her victory certainly was," Johnston said. "She was wonderful and it would be nice if we saw a re-

peat in the Cornwallis." What may be most wonderful at Ascot this afternoon though is the mood of the

After the Knavesmire yes-

terday failed to recover from

the soaking it received earlier

in the week, which also caused

Jumpers in the picture as York falls to the weather

bookmakers. The idea that it only rains on the Crown Estate wheo the monarch is away in more agreeable climes has gained much credence this week. In a cultural exchange, we have given Pakistan The Queen

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Tedburrow (Ascot 3.35) NB: Lady Alexander (Ascot 2.30)

and they have responded with the donation of a monsoon.

The effect of the soft going in Berkshire on two-year-olds is indeterminate this afternoon, but it is punters who will be left with the brief of guessing. "The ground will be a trial for most of the horses because the vast majority will not have raced on it before," Johnston said. "We've got no reason to believe ours won't like soft ground be-

Meanwhile York's clerk of

the course, John Smith, apol-

ogised following the abandon-

ment of the fixture - earlier

there had been encouraging

ooises from the track about

does not carry even Listed sta-

tus, was one of the best juvenile

races of its year. Leaf through

a decade of records and you will

not find a better example of the

capricious streak which makes

this sport at once both irre-

sistible and infuriating. It is dis-

tilled in a list of six runners lu

a £10,000 event. This is Essence

Within weeks of the Hype-

rion Stakes, Celtic Swing had

won the Racing Post Trophy by

12 lengths and was quoted at

just 12-1 to become the first

horse since Nijinsky to com-

piete the Trible Crowil The 11-

nal leg, the St Leger, might be

a little close to the Arc, but hey,

he could always win the Arc at

four. As a hundredweight of ex-

pectation was loaded on to

Celtic Swing's young shoul-

ders, Singspiel slipped quietly

into his winter quarters. The

Timeform annual rated him

joint 34th in his generation, 30lb

of Racing.

cause she's very strong, like most sprinters I suppose,"

may be that the finish will be between the other two runners. Land Of Dreams, in spite of Dr Fong was relatively unfanher afterburger, is by no means certain to confirm Town Moor cied on his Newbury dehut deplacings with Tippitt Boy on spite his forwarding address these revised terms. Others to being at Warren Place and this \$425,000 colt will not attract consider are Lord Kintyre, who was second to the unbeaten such generous odds today. The Daggers Drawn in the Richwinner though could be mond Stakes at Goodwood, and Evening World (2.00), who has Lady Alexander, the only borse at least won in the soft and was to have beaten King Of Kings. While the latter's Curragh form might not be copper-bottomed. the third, Princely Heir, another Johnston horse, did go on to win a Group One contest, Lady Newmarket. Alexander (next best 2.30) may

"We had good drying weath-

patches of false ground," Smith

said, "In the interests of safe-

ty, we couldn't take the risk. It's

very disappointing and 1 can

only apologise to the racing

just beat Land Of Dreams in a Three race, the Princess Royfillies' forecast. al Stakes, is populated largely Kingsley House is also repby underachievers. In this resented in an opener which is crowd of giggling girls the safest short on runners but oot an inoption looks to be Graceful trigue. Their Equity Princess Lass (3.00), judged on her narand another contestant, Rabah. row defeat by Puce over course cannot he ignored with any and distance two weeks ago.

The final televised race from Ascot, however, will be fought out by a hunch of old sweats short on top-class ability but with their attitude unquestioned. In such company there is no stouter named runner than the course-and-distance winner TEDBURROW (nap 3.35). At Longchamp tomorrow,

one of Michael Tabor's glit-

tering equine fleet, Second Empire, gets a run out in the third in Newbury's annual parade of future champions, the Grand Criterium. It is the be-Havnes, Hanson and Clark lief of some, including the Stakes. The runner-up, Quiet bookmakers, who have Second Empire toward the summit of Assurance, has since won at both 2,000 Guineas and Derby betting, that the colt is best The day's second Group juvenile at Aidan O'Brien's Ballydoyle stable. This is not the hierarchy constructed by those at the yard itself, though, who send Second Empire carrying a pot of tea and toast to King Of Kings' lodgings every

#### Eddery out of hospital

Pat Eddery left hospital yeser overnight hut there are terday after undergoing an operation on his hack. The prahlems forced Eddery to bring his season to a premature close five days after notching his 4,000th career win aboard Silver Patriarch in the St Leger,

Eddery's agent, Terry Eilis, said: "Pat is really pleased with the way things have gone. The numhness has disappeared from his legs."

Second fire at stables of Luca Cumani, page 7

### William Hill sold, page 24



Level hreak: Cettic Swing (left) and Singspiel leave the stalls together for the Hyperion Photograph: Trevor Jones Stakes of 1994 but their careers took different paths

### ITV Seven will have a pleasant surprise today when Channel 4 televises seven races from Bangor and Worcester instead of the abandoned meeting at York. Swing's line week, which also caused the abandonment of Thursday's card, Channel 4 moved quickly to switch coverage to the two jump meetings. Swing's line week, which also caused the abandonment of Thursday's card, Channel 4 moved quickly to switch coverage to the two jump meetings. Swing's line week, which also caused the abandonment of Thursday's card, Channel 4 moved quickly to switch coverage to the two jump meetings. Swing's line week, which also caused the abandonment of Thursday's card, Channel 4 moved quickly to switch coverage to the two jump meetings. prospects of racing going to the Singspiel era

Celtic Swing was hailed as a wonder horse when The annihilated Singspiel at Ascot three years ago today. But although defeated then, Singspiel's durability has sealed his place in history.

There was little room for argument after Celtic Swing sauntered away with the Hyperion Stakes at Ascot exactly three years ago today. All hut the mosi cynical spectators were convinced: they had just seen a horse of outstanding talent and promise, a colt who would curely go on to compile one of the most successful careers in British turf history.

And so they had, only the animal in question was not the

1.17

10000

scot

one carrying the claret and hlue silks of Peter Savill. The horse who finished runner-up to Celtic Swing that afternoon was eight lengths adrift, so far behind the winner that few gave him a second look. He was a two-year-old trained by Michael Stoute, whose future appeared to hold, at best, a chance in a decent handicap, or perhaps a minor Group race in Italy. His name: Singspiel.

BY GREG WOOD

It is a form book entry which tells us a great deal more than the bare fact that the 1994 Hyperion Stakes, which CELTIC SWING Y SINGSPIEL - CAREER GUIDES CELTIC SWING

behind the colt who had beaten him at Ascot. Born: 21 February 1992 Who then could have imag-Brown colt by Damister out of Celtic Fling Race record: 111/1218 ined how their respective careers would unfold. Three years 5 wins from 7 races Prize-money won: £405.254 on, Celtic Swing is in Australia, taking a working holiday at the Collingrove Stud while 71 Fin Me Oot Median Auction Stakes he waits for the new British covering season to begin. He ran his last race just nine months af-\$21,840 \$43,608 \$298,401 ter the Hyperion, finishing unplaced in the Irish Derby, while his pursuit of the Triple Crown went no further than the 2,000 SINGSPIEL Guineas, in which he was nar-Born: 25 February 1992 rowly beaten by Pennekamp. A Bay coft by in The Wings out of Glorious Song leg injury ensured that there Race record: 512/242221/1221121-1141 would be no chance to recap-9 wins from 20 races Prize-money won: £3,660,622 ture his juvenile form as a four-year-old. Singspiel, though, is still

earning his money the hard way. £3,673 and how. No horse in British turf history has won even half as much as the £3,660,622 which Singspiel has accumulated to date (Pilsudski, his stable-mate, is the second-highest earner, with a mere \$19,600 \$39,691 \$13,356 £1,698,523). He has won four Group One races, including the tm 4t Princess of Wales's Stakes tm 2f Select Stakes tm 4f Canadian International Epsom Newman £28,560 £263,079 £258,065 £1083,662 Japan Cup, Coronation Cup Goodwood and International Stakes, not to mention the Dubai World Cup. which has no Pattern status but is as close as you can get to a 21426,571 Dubei World Cup trn 4f Coronation Cup trn 4f King George Vi & On Elizabeth Stics trn 4f King George Vi & On Elizabeth Stics

522300

racing world championship. He will run at the Breeders' Cup next month (the Turf, in

which he finished second last year, is favoured over the Classic on dirt), while a final farewell to British punters in the Champion Stakes next Saturday is also being considered. No matter what inflation does to prize-money levels, his earnings

record seems sure to stand for years to come. "Before the Hyperion, we thought he was a nice horse," Anthony Stroud, Sheikh's Mohammed's racing manager, recalls. "He had ability and we

age, but the reputation of Celtic Swing was awesome and I think that we really saw a superb horse that day. He absolutely thrashed Singspiel, be skated in.

Even at the end of Singspiel's three-year-old career. you wouldn't say he was a great horse, he kept finishing second. He's just a very tough thoroughbred with great determination and courage and a wonderful constitution. He loves racing, he's been superbly trained and it's a testament to keeping a horse in

thought he would get better with HTTPHEN EXIS Q-Y,O; (Page II) 210116.00 (EV-M,O): 21797.00: 2755.00: 2202.50: C18.500 77 2380° Callie Swing (2309) (Per) Europhionism 8-11 (Charley (4) Fire with lact of our octacl over 20 Out 6000) 3614n Singupial (RE) (100) (MFS)culay 8-11 VRS-inform (5) (No up; chall want to 20 no long (RED (BED (BED (DE) ATT Immoral 8-13 LiDelson (E) (ed 45; where 2 345gs Jackers (USA) \$49 (75) (Children) 8-5 WComon (1) (fild up: white up 2f our: en S461- Copenhr's Day (RID (71) (TSMRH) 6-13 JReid (7) (obd fel 2)

How the Raceform Form Book recorded the result

RACING RESULTS training at five. He's come a long way since Ascot, aod

that's the wonderful thing about racing, you never know what's around the corner." For the connections of Celtic Swing, though, there is nothing hat the thought of what might have been. "It was a great performance at Ascot," Nick Bahington, Peter Savill's racing manager, says. "It was just a shame about his injury. A lot of people bave said that Singspiel improved a lot after that and he probably did, but

I know that Michael Stoute rat-

ed him very highly that day. But

he stayed a sound and fit horse

and unfortunately Celtic Swing

For punters, the lessons of

the 1994 Hyperion Stakes are

clear. Never take anything for

granted, particularly when it

comes to ante-post betting.

And no matter what wins the

race this afternoon, or by how

had his leg problems."

3.40: 1. SMART SQUALL (J Reid) 8-1; 2. Indian Missile 14-1; 3. Pay On Red 12-1. 15 ran. 11-4 fay Tightrope (6th): 2½, 1½, (Lord Huntingdon, West (isley), Tota: 5270; 23.50, 24.30, 23.60, DF: 235.70, CSP: CN208, Tricast: £(22578, Tric): £57960, NR: 4.15: 1. GHALE (R HE) 11-8 fax; 2. Chal-Yo 25-1; 3. Weet A-Minute 9-4. 5 ran. 2, nk. (Major W Hern, Lembourn). Tota: £240; £150, £260. DF: £2390. CSF; £2704.

4.45: 1. TAUNT (M+Re) 7-1; 2. Marities Prince 14-1; 3. Mattimeo 8-1. 13 ran. 9-2 fav Royal Diversion. 17. 6. (D Morley, Nav-market): This: 52:20; 22:50, 24:50, 23:50. DF: 24:881. CSP: £91.75. Tricast: £741.50. Tric 3.50: 1, WANDHA (A.S. STRUT) 0-1; 2. Stur Merket 9-4; 3. Irie Mon 6-1.8 rdn. 2-1 fay Desiring Dollar (4th), rdc, 11/s. (K Morgan, Melton Mowbray), Tolle: £780; £2.20, £2.10. DF; £680, CSF; £2002.

520: 1, JASEUR (L Dettori) 4-1 tav; 2. Getapino 6-1; 3, Botd Buster 9-2 16 ran. 11/4, Ind. (J. Gosden, Newmarket). Tota: 5320; £180, £210, £150, DF: £1280, CSF: £23.35. Tricest: £95.92. Tric: £19.10. Jackpot: \$238,492.50 (part won; pool of \$228,492.58 carried forward to Ascol today). Placepot: \$910.50. Quadpot: \$118.00. 4.55: 1. GATFLAX (M Keighley) 4-5 fav; 2. Fin Bec 33-1; 3. Bigeound 7-2 18 ran. 4.5. (N Twiston-Davies, Neumion). Tota: £240; £180, £730, £150. DF; £5480. Place 6: \$50158, Place 5: \$238.54

CARLISLE

2.20: 1. TITAN THAI (Richard Guest) 14-1; 2. Kings Minetral 10-11 fer; 3. Gold Bits 7-2. 8 ran. 25. 10. (N Meson). Tota: £15.40; £330, £120. DF: £10.20. CSF: £25.55.



D is for ...

Dettori, Lanfranco: Italian

jockey who deserves to be re-

membered as one of the last

great social reformers of the

20th Century, since he did

more for the cause of wealth

redistribution in the space of

one afternoon at Ascot last

year than Bevan managed in

his entire lifetime. The only

current rider that most

Britons have heard of, and

one who, as the Irish would

say, was not hiding behind the

door when personality was

handed out. He is not the

champion jockey, nor is be

likely to be when the season

ends in a few weeks' time, but

that doesn't really matter,

since 90 per cent of the pop-

ulation thinks he is, and will

do for the next 20 years,

even if he retires tomorrow.

Dogs: These come in two va-

rieties: the racing dog, which

plies its trade at 'Ackney

and the Stow, and the useless

old dog, which is, somewhat

confusingly, always a horse.

Greyhounds were status sym-

bols to the ancient Egyptians,

their ownership restricted by

which often results.

the second, which doesn't.

#### GREG WOOD THE A-Z OF BETTING

couple of months tater. The Lamh won the National at 5-1, which some might say is cooclusive proof that supernatural forces were at work. Cynics, on the other hand, will point out that the winning margin was just two lengths. For what it's worth, your columnist is prepared to share a premonition which has not yet come to pass. When a bright green horse with seveo legs and the Queen booked to ride lines up for the Derby - get on.

Druid's Lodge Confederacy:

law to the ruling élite, hut Three very posh gents - one their real worth became clear was the hrother of the Govonly about 2,500 years later ernor of the Bank of England when it was discovered that - and a trainer called Jack Fallon (no relation to they are daft enough to chase Kieren), who ran a racing staan nnconvincing dud hare, hle high up in the middle of week in, week out, without ever getting frustrated or Salisbury Plain around the turn of the century with the bored. Individual dogs are astonishingly consistent - put sole intention of hanging one around four bends every every bookie in Britain out to morning for a week and its dry. Nothing was left to time will never vary by more chance. Stable staff were padlocked into their quarters than a few hundredths of a second. This, of course, is useeach night and their mail always opened, to prevent news less for gambling purposes, so tracks insist on sending six off of the latest Lodge plot leakat once with a sharp left turn ing to the bookmakers. The Confederates cheated like about 50 metres away from mad, and gambled like luthe traps. An industry is founded on the interference natics - except that their plunges rarely failed. Paul Mathieu's definitive account Double: And also for the of their 10-year reign of terfirst leg which does win, and ror in Britain's betting rings (The Druid's Lodge Confederacy, the Gamblers Who Made Racing Pay, puh J A Dreams: Rare is the punter who has not at one time or Allen) helpfully updates another had a vivid dream in some of their successful which a big race is apparently coups to modern money. Ypplayed out in advance. Nor is silanti, in the 1903 Great Ju-In 1871, Lord Poulett, who to have made them the equivowned The Lamb, one of the alent of £4m. A few months leading steeplechasers of his later, when their filly Hackday, had two of them in the ler's Pride won the Camsame night, both featuring hridgeshire having been the Grand National, "In the backed from 33-1 down to first, he was last," Poulett 6-1, they are believed to have wrote the next day to the won £250,000 - which today jockey, Tommy Pickernell. would be worth £11m, the biggest coup in punting his-"In the second, he won by four lengths and you rode tory. Mathieu estimates Falhim." Pickernell was duly lon's share was the thick end booked to ride The Lamh at of £1.5m at today's rates. Unfortunately, this was still Aintree, while his owner set about staking on the horse not enough to prevent him everything in his stately home dying, three decades later, that was not nailed down. A without a penny to his name.

> 5.10: 1. KNIGHTSBRIDGE LAD (R e.Tuc 1. AMIGNITISMITURE: LAD (M. Johnson) 4-1; 2. Tuftem Fole 3-1; 3. Lu-nur Deuter 11-4 ten. 8 ran. 8, 2. (Miss Venetla Williams) töter 5590; F160, 5270, 5130, DF: 5740, CSF: \$1598, This: \$1820, NR: C'Mon Tiger.

mot: \$23640, Quadrot: \$2030.

HUNTINGDON

2.10: 1. PEALINGS (Alcheel Bremen) 10-1; 2. Northern Fleet 2-1 it fav. 3. Just 'n Ace 7-1. 11 ram. 2-1 it fav. Tuckere Town (5th), rk, 8 (G. Hubbard, Woodbridge). Tota: 22:40; 52:40, 51:40, 52:40, DF: 51:420 CSF: 53:10. This: \$45:70, Following on ob-

CSF: 2310. Tinc: 249.70, Following an objection from the fourth to the third, the placings remeth unablased.

2.40: 1. HERBERT LONGE (N. Willamson) 1-2 tax; 2. Moobeldor 7-1; 3. Pangeran 9-4. 7 ran. 2, 5. (K. Balley, Upper Lambourn). Total: 2150; 210, 2230. DF: 2580. CSF: 2812.

3.15: 1. FTVELEIGH BUILDS (A Thom-ton) 11-10 tax; 2. Plms Gurmer 9-4; 3. Beward Dieu 2-1. 3 ran. 2, 15. (Miss Lu-cinda V Russell, Khross). Tota: 22.00. DF:

3.50: 1, WAMDHA (AS Smith) 6-1; 2.

4.25: 1. NO LIGHT (L.Harvey) 5-2; 2. Who's To Say 7-2; 3. Soottieft Bambi 8-18 tax 3 ran. 114, 5. (Andrew Turnet, Wantage). Tota: £290. DF: £370. CSF:

CSF: £6468. Tota Trio: £185. Following a Stewards' Inquiry, No 12 Barton was dis-

qualified for taking the wrong course.

Placepot: £3600. Quadpot: £4180.

Place 6: £10100. Place 5: £4910.

£200 CSF: £355

Place 6: £189.35. Place 5: £38.41.

2.00: 1. DALPHIN (Mr S Durack) 12-1; 2. Now Inn 25-1; 3. Whitechapel 15-6 fev. 12 ran. 1'4. 1'4. (W Museon, Newmerket). Tota: \$18.50; \$3.0, \$5.20, \$1.10. DF: \$106.20. CSF: \$25726. Tricast: £737.77. Trio: £85.10. 2.50: 1. WISTON CHEESE (T Sprile) 8-1; 2. Tueste 9-4; if far; 3. Late Night Out 5-1 7 ran. 9-4; if far; 3. Late Night Out 5-1, 0. Tueste 9-4; if far Courageous (4th) 1/4, nd. (J Dunlop, Arundol, Tota: 29.20; 23.00, 12.10 DF: 216.00 CSF: 22458

3.05: 1. JAPN (R-Hs) 5-1 it law; 2. Demo-ing Drup 5-1; 3. Steened Spirit 8-1. 10 ran. 5-1 it law Pelsack: 1½, nk. (B Hembury, New-marker) Totac 9450; 5170, 5270, 5230. DF: \$1150. GSF: £3095, Tino: £4080, NR: Apache

1.50: 1. LITTLE MISS ROCKER (D Park-er) 11-4; 2. Real Fire 6-4 (Lise; 2. Dissington Times 8-4 (Lise; 3 ran. nk. 7. (A Dicken), Total 2340: DF: £400, CSF: £818.

2.55: 1. LEAP IN THE DARK (A P Mo-Coy) 2-1 far, 2. Four From Home 9-4; 3. Meadowheck 33-1. 6 ran. 4, 7. (Mass L. Sid-chi) Tote: \$280; \$150, £120, DF: \$340 CSF; £818.

3.30: 1. ROYAL VACATION (J Caleghar) 4-9 tay; 2. Boarding School 3-1; 3. White Diamont 12-1 4 ran. 1%, dist. (G Moore). Tota: £140. DF: £160. CSP: £184.

4.05: 1. COTTAGE PRINCE (G Hogan) 9-4; 2. Pentiend Squire 3-1; 3. Well Ap-pointed 6-4 tax. 4 ran. 5, 2 (J Quinn). Totac 5300. DF: 5380. CSF: 5857. NR; Royal Cr-4.35: 1. MARBLE MAN (D Bentley) 2-1 2. Wayuphili 7-4 tsr; 3. Cross Cannon 3-1. 4 ran. 1%, 9 (M Pail) Tota: \$280. DF: \$250. CSF: \$554. NR: Baltery Fired.

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#### **HEXHAM**

144 144 144

HYPERION 2.20 Pebble Beach 2.50 Eponine 3.20 Whitegates Willie 3.55 Jamaican Flight 4.25 Tighter Budget 4.55 Ballindoo

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

© Left-hand, unclutating course, Run-in of 250yd.

© Course is on minor road 2m S of Heuman, Signposted from town, Herbarn station 2m, ADMISSION: Club 29, Taltersells 56 (OAPs. PG CAR PARK: free.

• LEADING TRAINERS: G Richards 16-55 (281%), G M Moore 5-62 (2-2%), J H Johnson 14-82 (77%), P Montails 9-41 (22%).

\*\*Example JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 24-90 (267%), P Niven 19-88 ZIMA) R Guest 11-75 (4.7%), R Garrity 10-65 (5.4%).

PRIVOLETIES: 149-588 (38.4%).

RINGERED PRIST TRIE: La Perdona (250).

CAPITAL SHOPPING CENTRES NOVICE 2.20 CAPITAL SHOPPING CENTRE and 3m 1f OSKS-1 ETERNAL CITY (47) G Richards 8 11 5..... QUBD- SPRAYE EDWIN (228) C Great 7 10 12.....

21/22 GIVENEYOURHAND (244) J Charlon 8 to 12 \_\_\_\_ & Shorey
D65(4 HICKSONS CHOICE (11) J Vecto 9 to 12 \_\_\_\_ A Thombon
54/2-F HORGINK (21) A Whiters 6 to 2 \_\_\_\_ K Johnson 

District 13-6 Mister Rose, 7-2 Pebble Beach, 4-1 Sternal City, 7-1 Hobbirs, 12-1 Namics, 14-1 Giveneyourhead, Strongelong, 15-1 Brave Edwin, 25-1 Peachy Beach, 33-1 others

METRO CENTRE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m A Dobbin BOUT ME RALKET 105. 2 EPONNIE (45) E Blot 105 A Thornton 4P LA PERDONA (14) Miss M Million 105 R Greet B 0 TRIBAL NISCHEE (972) D Mortan 105 O Bridgueier

-7 decired -BETTING: 4-6 Eponics, 15-6 ibn Mestrab, 10-1 La Perdoma, 12-1 For-ture Histor, Tribal Mischief, 20-1 The Tig. 40-1 Bout

3.20 REGIONAL RAILWAYS NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 110 yds

\_R Goest B

~ 8 declared — BETTING: 3-1 Whitegates Wille, 7-2 Batlery Fired, 4-1 Salem Beach, 9-2 Astroloon, 5-1 Papparazo, 12-1 Super Guy, 20-1 On Golden Pond,

24F123 BATTERY FRED (16) N Meson 8 12 0 .....

3.55 HENNESSY COGNAC SERIES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS 8) £8,000 added 2m 2022 MICK ROSS (177) R Brevis B 10 12 A S Smith
P TRIGGERFEH (43) P Moraelin 5 10 72 A Dobblo
1 PLYING NORTH (2) (CD) Mrs M Revelsy 4 10 11 P Morae
11-111 JAMAICAN FLIGHT (44) (2) Mrs S Larrymen 4 10 11 A Thorston
2-Pts PALAMON (USA) (18) (1) P Ecoles 4 10 11 R Guest
00603 AMBER HOLLY (154) J Docn 6 10 7 Sectionsy
- 6 decisions

- 6 deciared --BETTING: 5-4 Januaican Flight, 2-1 Palamen, 11-4 Flying North, 8-1

far, make a very careful note of whatever finishes second. 4.25 IN SITU HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds

Miningen weight: 10st. Tose handling weight: Walls Court 9st 12th. BETTING: 7-4 Tighter Budget, 4-1 Have A Branthy, 9-2 Ballyline, Rallegio, 8-1 Walls Court, Blazing Dawn, 12-1 Classic Contact

4.55 METRO CENTRE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,800 added 3m

| (CLASS) | 7 | 22,000 SEREPU | 3111 | 34174 | SCARBA (182) (C) (D) | M | Jeferson 9 12 0 \_ M | Mello (7) | 2231 | BALLINDOO (8) (D) R Ameson 8 11 4 \_ M | Mr R Ameson 21-453 | HEGHLAND WEY (40) (C) M Tobarter 8 11 3.C McCommick (7) | 36574 | JURRAN (USA) (16) (D) J Doods 11 11 2 \_ M | Guardian 15479 | PARSILAY STREET (1949 W Romp 8 10 1 \_ M | B Sharey 35502 | MENALDY (1711) P Cheastrough 7 100 \_ M | A 2 Smith 55535 | DON'T FORGET (LITTS (8) Mis Klamb 5 10 \_ Miss \$ Lamb (7) | 04459 | WY MESSILE (21) R Cockburn 7 100 \_ M | Cockbur

7 253-35 DUM FORSE! LENIS BY MRX LEMBS VI. AND ALL STATE OF THE ALL STATE

**RUGBY UNION** 

### Wasps seek respect from Greater Myopia

Lawrence Dallaglio's Wasps team have not lost a competitive game of rugby for six and a half months and if they beat Swansea tomorrow. they will head the Heineken Cup rankings as the only unbeaten

side in the quarter-finals. But as Chris Hewett

discovered, the captain believes his men are getting a raw deal from the sceptics.

If old hahits die hard, old prejudices are even more difficult to flush out of the system. To listen to the short-sighted partisans in the traditional English rugby union heartlands of the West Country and the East Midlands - soon to be rechristened Greater Myopia - last season was either a freak aberration or simply did not happen at all. Wasps? Champions? Only by default, apparently.

The hlue-collar Londoners knocked the loog-standing Bath-Leicester hegemony clean off its foundations by winning the 1996-97 Courage League title, but any grudging respect they might have received quickly disappeared beneath e tidal weve of knee-jerk excuses and pleas of mitigation. Bath's campaign had been undermined by boardroom acrimony, Leicester's comprehensively wrecked by injury and fixture congestion.

And what about that ridiculous Subbuteo pitch at Loftus Road, where the only route round Gareth Rees, Wasps' capacious full-back, was via the fish and chip shop in Shepherd's Bush High Street? "Wait until we get 'em on a full-sized paddock," muttered the vanquished.

Even now, almost two months into the new season, the doubters are still up there on their soapboxes. "Wasps have had it easy," they say. "No French club in their Heineken Cup group. They may be in the last eight, but they baven't Dallaglio, the inspirational bodies the Wasps work ethic and defines their all-purpose expertise, can be forgiven for feeling just a little cheesed off.

"Look, you pley the teams you're drawn against," he said this week. "A lot has heen made of our supposed favourable draw in the

Heineken Cup, but we worked incredibly hard to win the Courage League last season and one of the rewards for that achievement was to go into the European draw as the number one English side. I think it was entirely right that we found ourselves where we did.

"I suppose it would be fair to say that had we been forced to play in France during the pool phase, we would have had to look very carefully at our preparation and "up" things a notch. But it's also relevant to point out that we played Toulouse in tast season's competition and put 70 points on them. 'We're e very focused side

at the moment, both physically and mentally, and while we treat all opponents as e serious threat, we don't hold anyone in awe. If and when we have to play e hig French side, we'll relish the task." For the moment Dallaglio is

more concerned with making e decent fist of tomorrow afternoon's Pool B finale against the maverick under-echievers of Swansea. The Welshmen frightened the living daylights out of Wasps in the opening round of matches last month, but have been ensconced in cock-up mode ever since. Defeat at Loftus Road would almost certainly end their European interest for another season.

"It's a must-win game for them, but it's a must-win game for us too for one very good reason," said the captain. "This time last season, things were going very well indeed for us. much as they are now. Then we played a Welsh side, Cardiff, et home in the Heineken and messed it up. Not only did it effectively cripple our chances of e knock-out place, but it sent us careering off the rails for a while. I've had a feeling of dejà w all week and I'm not comfortable with it. "Winning regularly has been

wonderful for morale and confidence and all the other mental things that give a side an edge. We don't have a problem travelling away now - unlike many other sides, we take our played anyone yet." Lawrence form on the road with us - and as long as we keep our mo-Swansea is central to maintaining that momentum and epart from anything else, it will ensure us a home draw for as long as we stay in the competition. It could be crucial."

That territorial advantage, so valuable in a tournament of this intensity, will be the main mo-

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Focused on winning: Wasps captain Lawrence Dallaglio takes a break during training this week

Photograph: Peter Jay

tivation for Harlequins when stacked against them, however. they tackle the implacable Munster hordes in Limerick tomorrow, although the issue will be settled in the Londoners' favour if the hit-and-miss Frenchmen of Bourgoin discover some away form and turn Cardiff over at the Arms Park this afternoon. The Pool D contest always looked likely to go the wire and the organisers' decision to keep the pot boiling by introducing

looking more inspired by the a real taste for European comtition, can still deny Quins the all-important top spot with a coo. "We have nothing to lose comprehensive victory over Bourgoin, who in turn are chasbest third-placed side from the five pools. Such is the broad sweep of possibilities that Marc Cecillon's side could even fin-

ish second. The odds are

foothold in the Heineken Cup

a quarter-final play-off round is

more reminiscent of a bad Friday night on the M25. Pau, the Challenge du Manoir champions and stone-cold certainties

The log jam in Pool E is even

for e home quarter-final tie just as receotly as a fortnight ego. have lost two on the bounce and are now fighting for their lives in a compelling four-way scrap with Llanelli, Theviso and Caledonia. The Italians geouinely fancy their chances after running in 96 points in their last 160 minutes of rugby, even though Cardiff, who are developing they must play in Pau this afternoon. "It's not over yet," said

and everything to gain." One fixture towers above all ing a stay of execution as the others, however. Bath, their self-belief profoundly weakened by the hiding dished out by Brive last weekend, put their pool leader status on the line against a pumped-up Pon-

tres. Of the English contingent,

only unbeaten Newcastle are

certain to play a role in the lat-

this weekend to retain an in-

terest. Gloucester, who must

win in Padova tomorrow, trav-

el without their two England in-

ternationals. Mark Mapletoft

(groin trouble) and Phil Green-

ing (neck strain) will he re-

Two other Allied Dunbar

French look to polish their dominance

blood in their nostrils. The Welshmen have suffered trials and tribulations of almost hiblical proportions over the last five weeks, but are still in there with a puncher's chance, as Dale McIntosh might have put it. With victory equally important to both sides, the Recreatioo Ground atmosphere will be at its most gloriously oeu-

Jon Sleightholme, transferlisted by Bath this week, makes a rare appearance oo the right wing and has a timely opportunity to impress any prospective new employers. Mega-ricb Cardiff say they are interested in the England flier's services. although not at the six-figure price demanded by the West Countrymen, while Bristol, who have no money at all, insist they are in the market whatever the fee. It's a funny old game,

getting funnier by the minute.

Neil McCarthy respectively.

#### typridd side with the scent of HEINEKEN CUP **STANDINGS**

ŧ		w	п	L	F		Pts
_		**				102	
;	Toutouse	4	0	1	162		
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	Leinster			3		129	4
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	Ulater 5		Ö	4	80	186	2
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	Parelle E	3	Ö	2	158	140	
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	Pool E						
	POOI E						
	P	W	D	L	F	AI	13
	PEU	3	0	2	147	82	6
	Liment	3	0	2	173	132	5
•	Troviso5	2	0	3	139	106	4
•	Culedania E		•	7	70	1950	

Only the pool winners are assured of a place in the last eight. The five runners-up, seeded on pool performance, and the best third-placed side pair off in three placed by Nick Osman and sudden-death gemes to determine the remaining querter-fi-Northampton, meanwhile, nalists. The four top-performing must contend with Connacht, pool winners can look forward to who thrashed the Saints in a home quarter-final tie - Wasps Galway in the opening match are already gueranteed that edof the campaign and then unvantage end Toulouse, Bath and expectedly saw uff Nice, and Harlequins will join them if they Bègles-Bordeaux (home and win this weekend - and the away) to leave themselves top same system will be used to degoing into today's showdown at cide on venues at the semi-final Franklins Gardens. It is a straight winner-take-all shoot- : stage. After five weeks of bruisout and with Eric Etwood in ; ing, blistering rugby, only three fine kicking form for the visi- sides are definitely out of the runtors, it is also too close to call. ining: Milan, Scottish Borders

CRICKET

#### Premiership sides, Gloucester and Northampton, need to prevail in difficult circumstances

er stages.

The English clamour for e fifth table and they are likely to be foothold in the Heineken Cup joined by Colomiers and Cas-

mey be growing in volume, but the evidence provided by the second-tier European Conference tournament is not supportive. Last season, the French contributed seven of the eight quarter-finalists and their continuing dominance will surely be hrought to bear when increased national representation in the main competition comes up for discussion. Agen, Montferrand and

Stade Français already have their feet under the knock-out

BASKETBALL

#### Royals sack on schedule

Watford Royals changed their name, their venue, their coach and most of their players for the new Budweiser campaign, but following the same schedule as last season they have sacked their coach, with club director Vince Razaq taking over.

Last season, defeat at Sheffield on 4 October cost Mark Dunning his job as coach to Hemel Royals; last Saturday at Thames Valley Tigers saw the end for Dana Beszczynski. "It's only a temporary mea-

sure," Razaq said, "We need to see who is around and we have to get the decision right this time. Unfortunately for Razaq.

tonight's opponents, Manchester Giants, have relieved the pressure on their own coach, Jim Brandon, with two wins after losing their first three games. They capitalised on an injury to Billy Singleton last Sunday to beat Leicester City Riders 89-73. Richard Taylor

### Inzamam and Azhar steady Pakistan

Henry Blofeld reports from Rawalpindi Pakistan 456 and 182-6 South Africa 403

There was time on the last afternoon yesterday when South Africa might just have won this first Test match, but half-centuries by Inzamam-ul-Haq and Azhar Mahmood saved Pakistan from embar-

rassment and secured the draw. Pakistan, with a firstinnings lead of 53, collapsed to 80 for 5 but Inzamam and Azhar calmed any fears with a sixth-wicket partnership of 68 in 69 minutes. Soon after Inzamam was dismissed bad light forced an early closure with 12.2 overs remaining.

Inzamam hit a hard-hitting 56 that included 10 boundaries from 82 balls while man-of-thematch Azhar Mahmood followed up his unbeaten 128 with an unbeaten 50 to become

the first Pakistani to score a century and a half century on his debut. "To be honest, both times I went to the crease. Pakistan were in trouble. But thanks God, I rose to the occasion," Azhar said.

Chris Hewett · and Munster.

Jacques Kallis and Pat Symcox had given South Africa a glimmer of a hope when they each took two wickets after Allan Donald had removed Saced Anwar, but the sixthwicket pair prevented any further drama although the South Africa captain, Hansie Cronie, dismissed Inzamam shortly before the early close.

After South Africa resumed on their 359 for 6 Mushtaq Ahmad took three of the four wickets to fall although Azhar made the initial hreakthrough when he had Shaun Pollock smartly caught by the substitute wicketkeeper Mohammad Wasim for 48.

Pollock shared a seventhwicket partnership of 106 with Dave Richardson who ran out

of partners and finished on 45 not out.

PAKISTAN – Fivst innings 456 (Azher Meh-mood 1280o, Ali Naqvi 115, Mushtaq Ahmad 

■ The Kenya openers Deep-ak Chudasama and Kennedy Otieno scored a world record first-wicket partnership of 225 in the President's Cup trinations one-day international against Bangledesh yesterday.

The previous highest was 212 by Australia's Graham Marsh and David Boon against India

RUGBY LEAGUE

### Bell's switch opens door for Murray

rugby league is vacant following Dean Bell's decision to stand aside as Leeds' coach.

Dave Hadfield fully expects a high-profile Australian to take over the reins.

Dean Bell's decision to switch domains et Headingley from the first team to youth development had a lot to do with joh security.

Bell turned down the offer of an extended contract in his previous role. His new joh carries a three-year contract. whereas the more precarious one of coach only carried the offer of an extra 12 months from the expiry of his current deal next April.

"While I will miss the intensity and weekly excitement of Super League matches, I bave to admit that this position offers me stability," Bell said. Both he and the club stressed that the decision was his alone.

Bell, an outstanding player, notably for Wigan and Great Britain, had a difficult first season with Leeds only narrowly avoiding relegation. There was a marked improvement this time, although the club were dis-

appointed at finishing fifth. "Dean has done an excellent job and leaves a very different squad to the one be inherited," Gary Hetherington, Leeds' chief executive, said. The changes in attitude, determination and hunger among the squad can be credited to him and his staff. We now have the proper foundation on which to build."

Although Hetherington said that the club was in oo neighbours, Hull City.

One of the top jobs in hurry to appoint a successor, the identity of the man to be entrusted with that

building was a matter of in-

mediate and wide-ranging

speculation. John Monie's name has been linked with Leeds for years, and he and Bell are close allies. The indications are, though, that when Monie returns to Britain it will be to take charge of one of the proposed new fran-

Other suggestions are the former Bradford coach, Brian Smith, now with Parrametta, and the Great Britain coach, Andy Goodway, who was in charge at Paris last season, but would be available for a position at an English club for next

The likeliest to emerge as favourite, however, is the Hunter Mariners coach Graham Murray, whose side meets Cronulla in the World Club Championship serai-final today.

Murray has impressed at both Illawarra and Hunter, but will be out of work when Hunter are scrapped as part of the peace deal between Super League and the Australian Rugby League.

Meanwhile, the turmoil continues at Hull, promoted to Super League for .. next season, but now losing their second chairman in a month.

peta 1

Ē.,

Cricker

Roy Waudby, who only resumed the chair in September, has resigned after what be described as a clash of personalities with the new chief executive, Mike Appleton.

Two other directors are considering their positions after being asked to resign by the club's owner, the tennis cotrepreceur. David Lloyd, who also owns their

#### **Betts out of Test series** as Brisbane win a classic

Dave Hodfield **Brisbane** Auckland.

The Auckland Warriors could not hold Brisbane for the full 80 minutes of a compelling semi-final of the Visa World Club Championship - but the biggest

losers were Great Britain. The Auckland second row Denis Betts, one of Britain's few truly worldclass players, tore a shoulder muscle in the first half at ANZ Stadium and ruled himself out of next month's Test series against Australia.

"I'll he having an oper-ation next week," he said "and it could be a five or sixmonth job, the doctor says." That is appalling news for Greet Britain, especially taken in the context

of an unforgettable match. Aucklend played a full part in what must be one of the most gripping games ever played and they led through an early try from Shane Endacott hut then took a fearful battering.

Ben Walker played an important role in Brisbane's

triumph, starting with an opportunist try from his own kick, which he converted.

Gordon Tallis wrestled his way through for a second try and it looked as though Brisbane might gallop clear, but Auckland hit back with a counter-attack, begun by Lee Oudenryn behind his own line and finished by him, five tackless leter, when he leapt to catch Gene Ngamu's kick and touch down.

Matthew Ridge's conversion tevelled the scores and the Warriors went ahead five minutes after the restart, with Oudenryn again taking a high kick, this time from Stacey Jones.

Mistakes started to creep into Auckland's play and in the space of four minutes Kevin Walters got over for one try and then set Walker up for another.

The quality of the spectacle, though, will be of little consolation to Auckland Betts or Britain.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

 He's always got an Italian-English phrase book with him when he's reading. Mind you, that's for him to stand on. Graeme Le Saux on his Chelsea team-mate, Gianfran-

● Two weeks before the game I'll stop talking to you. And a week before I'll start kicking you. Zola to Le Saux in the build-up to tonight's game in Rome.

● I'll have a hell of a job not leaping up if he scores. Tony, Banks, Sports Minister and Chelsea fan, on Zola.

● Christian Dailly - sounds like a Salvation Army newspaper. Alan Parry, Sky Sports commentator on the Derby defender.

• If he was in Star Trek, held be the best player of whichever solar system they were in lan Wright on his Arsenal team-mate Dennis Bergkamp.

Matthew Gatword

GOLF: WORLD MATCH PLAY



Emie Els plays his approach shot to the 15th green in his 7 and 6 victory over lan Woosnam at Wenworth yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

### Montgomerie finds Faxon a game too far

Colin Montgomerie has a record on his mind but, as Andy Farrell explains, the long season proved too much for him at Wentworth yesterday

The state of the s

A flu-ridden Colin Montgomerie will have his first unplanned weekend off for exactly a year. The Scot has not missed a cut this season, but playing his ninth tournament in a row caught up with him yesterday as

he lost 2 and 1 to Brad Faxon. In the last three weeks, Montgomerie has finished secood twice and played a oot incoosiderable role in the body said 'no' today."

winning of the Ryder Cup. "I am run into the ground," he said. "I'm going home for a well earned rest.

"I've had a joh to do. I'm going for a record and it is causing me health problems." The record he is attempting

is an unprecedented fifth consecutive Order of Merit victory. Montgomerie is £45,000 ahead of Bernhard Langer on the money list going into the Volvo Masters at the end of the month. Before that he will lead Scotland in oext week's Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews. "I'm not going to say it is this is a hlessing in disguise," he said of his defeat. "The mind was keen but my

Montgomerie was two up after six holes in the afternoon when Faxon lived up to his reputation as a fine putter. The American had just lost three holes in a row when he holed from 25 feet for a half at

the seventh. Two holes later, he

holed from 30 feet again for the half. Faxon won the next four holes as Montgomerie ran out of steam. "It is satisfying to beat Colin," said Faxon, who had

beaten another of his European Ryder Cup counterparts in Darren Clarke the day before. "He was a little sick today, but he is one of the best players in the world and you know

pars are not going to be enough

to beat someone like that," He

plays Vijay Singh in the semifinal after the Fijian beat Steve Elkington 5 and 4.

Montgomerie did have some good news in that his wife Eimear is expecting their third child next May. But he added: "This was planned and it will not affect my decision whether to go to America or not." The other semi-final will be

battle of the southern Africans, Ernie Els and Nick Price. Both had convincing victories. Els by 7 and 6 over Ian Woosnam, while Price had to go a hole further, to the 31st, in beating Frank Nobilo.

Golf may not be hrain surgery, but it is elearly oot rocket scieoce, either. Woosnam's utilisation of his NASA-designed driver was far less effective than Thursday, but the had golfer was not blaming his tools. "It is not the driver, is it," Woosnam said. "It is obviously me."

There is no such thing as an evenly tempered Woosnam. Since he won the Volvo PGA here in May, the Welshman has finished in the top 10 at a tournament only once and it is getting him down. "One day is good, one day is had. You can't play like that. You have to be more consistent in this game.

"When I am swinging the club, it is like ... desperate," added one of the sweetest swingers of a golf club in his prime. "There doesn't seem to be any groove to it. I don't

physically know how to draw the ball properly and that is my problem. It has been like this for a number of years. I carry on bashing my head against the

Els, who was made an honorary member of the Wentworth Club on Wednesday night, scored a morning round of 67 to take a four hole lead into lunch.

A defeat for Els would have meant Sporting Index giving up a large amount of largesse after they offered golf writers, not known for being au fait with spread bettiog, a free wager. The few who bought Els, however, are feeling confident. Today's semi-final tea-off times: 8.50 and 12.45: He v Price; 8.45 and 1.0: Fexon v Singh.

### Henman waiting for Rusedski

Tim Henman looked forward to a potential encouoter with Greg Rusedski today after cruising into the semi-finals of the CA Trophy in Vienna yesterday.

Henman repeated last week's 6-4, 6-1 defeat in Basie of Karol Kucera and could face the world No 4 for the first time since last year's National Championships in Telford.

The British No 2 knows that victory would earn valuable world ranking points as he seeks to emulate Rusedski in reaching the world's top 10.

It was not all plain sailing for Henman as he struggled to conquer the Slovakian in the first set. In the fifth game he appeared to have made his early territorial advantage count when Kucera doublefauhed at a crucial point to give Henman the advantage. But in the ninth game Kucera survived two set points on Henman's serve to break back.

"At 5-3, 40-15 in the first set, I lost the rhythm of my serve and allowed him to break back," Henman said. "But in the second set, I played as good as I have in a long time." Henman recovered to take the

set on his fourth match point. The second set followed serve until Henman found some excellent form, particularly a cross-court drop shot which left Kucera moted to the baseline, to break in the fourth

game to gain a 3-1 lead. Henman cruised through the next game for a 4-1 lead as a clearly wearied Kucera wilted. Henman broke again for a 5-1 and he served out to complete a "satisfying" win and set up a mouth-watering meeting with

Jim Courier was swept out of the Singapore Open quarterfinals by Thomas Johansson yesterday as the leading seeds continued to fall.

The Swede beat the American No 3 seed 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, shortly after second seed Marcelo Rios had lost 6-1, 7-5 to Nicolas Kiefer in just 58 min-

Also out is the defeodiog champion, Jonathan Stark, who had beaten top seed Michael Chang in the first round.

Stark lost 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 to Magnus Gustafsson and Michael Tillstrom completed the trio of Swedish semi-finalists by beating Martin Damm 7-6, 6-1. Courier, seeking his second

successive title after a victory in Peking last week, said he had a muscle problem from early on. "I came out playing really well in the first set but pulled

a muscle in my left thigh early in the second set and so could nol move around well," he Kiefer was delighted with

his demolition of Rios. "I watched him play two days ago and knew that I had to serve big. He returns very well, so it was necessary for me to find my serve early," the German

Rios felt the match had turned in the 11th game of the second set when he failed to capitalise on a hreak point.

"He served very well today. His first serve was getting him important points," Rios said. Maybe I tried to bit the ball too hard, hut if I had broken in the 11th game I think the result would have been different.

In the semi-finals Kiefer meets Tillstrom while Gustafsson plays Johansson.

t series

3 Class:

#### Howey's gold puts Britain back on the map

Kate Howey won Britain's first and Olympic champion, in the taking the women's middieweight section.

medallist at light-heavyweight in Canada four years ago, beat the powerful German, Anja von Rekowski by ippon in the final.

Earlier, she defeated Min-Sun Cho, the Korean world

The 24-year-old, a silver

gold medal at the World Cham- semi-final. She beat Cho in were raised in the men's division piouships in Paris yesterday by style, going straight into her at- as light-middleweight Graeme denly, Howey bent down to pion, Johann Laats of Belgium. snatch Cho's legs, pulled her into Ok Chol Kwak, of North Korea, the air and pushed her on to her back. Howey had earlier beaten Edith Bosch of the Nether- Randall into the repechage and lands and Sally Bucton of South a chance for a bronze.

British hopes for a medal tack and causing her opponent. Randall beat three opponents to hop out of danger. Then, sud- including the European chamwas a more difficult opponent, took the decision, and forced

Who is the greatest footballer of all time? Now you can help us choose. Because England, the home of the world's greatest sport, is about to become the permanent venue for the International Football Hall Of Fame. backed by the Independent and the Professional Footballers' Association. And we need you to decide which of the game's beroes should be first to be inducted.

Over the next few weeks with your help, we will pick the best 25 of all time to be inaugurated in November in the official Hall Of Fame. To qualify, your pick must have played for his country and have retired for three years.

So get voting now. What we need you to do is nominate up to four players for election to the Hall Of Fame. Simply follow the instructions on the right.

Internet: You can also cast your vote on the Internet at www.sporting-life.com. This is how it all works.

•A player of any nationality can be elected. He must have been retired for three years and have gained a full cap. Anyone can make up to four nominations.

• A nomination must he sent to the International Football Hall Of Fame on an Official Voting Form, by telephone to a reg-

Official Voting Form, by telephone to a registered number, or via the Internet.

• Voting ends on Sanday November 9, 1997.

The five players with most nominations will automatically be elected.

• A Selection Committee made up of seven retired players from different countries, with a chairman from the PFA, will draw up a short list of 60 players from those who receive most votes. This list is given to a panel of football journalists, chaired by the Mirror's Harry Harris. Each will choose a top 20. The 20 players who receive most votes will be elected.

will be elected. Pick your greatest team ever - see Monday's Independent for details.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS make sure you use it!

# Hall of Famers

### Who is the greatest?

Wheo selecting your play- to four players. If you registered against your the table helow. If you exers for the International wish you may select only name. the chance to make maximum. Select up to 565 996 votes ONLY. Remember their code numbers and your votes couot, as the then call 0930 565 996.

The Hall of Fame.

who could all be in coo- er codes. At the end of the by November 8. tention. To make your se- call, you will he asked to Please note, you should Calls from Republic of

Hall of Fame, you have one, but FOUR is the VOTE NOW on: 0930

not listed below, you can will automatically go into test to determine what to: The Independent, Hall type of phone you have. of Fame, PO Box 6927, In the table below, we You will then he directed London E3 3NZ. Postal Calls should last no more have listed 250 players to enter your chosen play- entries must be received than two mins. 50p per

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perience problems voting, call our belpline: 0990 800 283. You cannot reg-FOUR votes and four four players, noting down If the player or players ister your vote on this you wish to vote for are line. Vote lines close on November 9, 1997. Retop five players overall First of all, you will be vote for them by using the public of Ireland number from all the votes received asked to carry out a quick form below and sending it is 1550 123 302 (Tone phones only).

minute at all times lection, all you have to do leave your name and ad- use the form only if your Ireland cost 58p per

#### SPORTING DIGEST

Baseball AMERICAN LEAGUE Play-offs: Claveland 5 Bal-timore 4 (Best-of-seven series tied 1-1).

Darren Maddy, Leicestershire's young opening batsman, has signed a new four-year contract with the Grace Road side.

Chris Smith, the former England Test carries sman, is quitting as chief execu-tive of the Western Australian Crick-el Association. He starts a new career in England working for a sports hos-pitality business in the new year.

WORLD CHARRONSHIPS (San Sebastian) Junior men (121.5 km/75.5 milen): 1 C charrons (t) 2tr Sarnin 45sec. 2 M Bolt (Swit): 3 M Saltimats (Eds) all same time. Junior Viscource: 57.5km roled race: 1 M van Molss (Malt) 1th Science 35c. 2 N Broadman (Swit): 3 S Anderston (Swit) all same time.

The Swiss champions, Sion, lost their appeal yesterday to Ueta, European footballs governing body, and will have to replay their Ueta Cup the against Spartait Moscow on Wednesday, Ueta ordered the first-round second-lea match on 30 September. ony. Lette ordered the first-round sec-ond-leg match on 30 September, which ended 2.2 with Spartak ad-vancing 3.2 on aggregate, to be re-played after upholding a Sion protest that the goals were too small. Sion had as The Portsmouth tho, Sammy Igos. Aaron Flahawan and Russell Perrett, have all signed new contracts which will keep them at Fration Park until 2001. Asign Villa have been allocated 1000 tickets for their Uefa Cup second round first leg with Athletic Bibao in Spein on 21 October.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

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American Duffy Waldorf yesterday fired a spectacular bogsy-free 63 to take a one-stoke lead over Brad Bryant shis the first nound of the Michaelob bournament in Williamsburg. Virginia. Waldorf, who has had one vactory since joining the PGA tour in 1965, had eight brides, including six over his final eight holes.

Stoke's Lisa Hackney has become the eighth oversees player in 10 years to win the US LPGA Tour's Rookle of the Year award. Hackney, whose seven top-10 finishes this season included a tie for second at the Safeway LPGA Golf Championship, finished the

a tie for second at the Safeway LPGA Golf Chestroiomship, finished the session with 800 points.

MICHELOB CHAMPIONSHIP (Williamshing, Yeginin) Leading first-round source (US unless stated); 63 D Waldon; 64 & Dryart, 65 Il Kraft, 66 K Hiplett, 8 Garqui, L Carterda, 9 Ougley, 57 N Lancaster, F Couples, Il Duvel, 7 Armoux, C Shange, G Halberg, M Christia, 2 Hughes (Leg, Selected; 74 S 196 (33), OPEN NOVOTEL, PERRIER PARS TOURNAMENT (Bordeaux, Fr), Leading Second-round (Iournomes) (GB or in values stated): 133 J Hamesy and R Jacoustin (Ph 64 85 135 Lines and J Rivero (Sp) 64 71, 136 P Hedition and P Sciand (Seve) 66 70, 137 P Curry and S Cage 67 72, 1 Garriot and M Grant and S Cage 68 72, 1 Garriot and M Grant (M Sessionant) (Ph) 64 73, 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 73, 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 74, 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and 3 Line 65 74, 1 Knothand and M Jonaco (Swe) 65 74, 1 Knothand and R Drummond 66 75 1 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 75 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 77 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 77 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 77 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 77 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van de Velde (Fr) and R Des 67 7 1 Van d

ice hockey NHL: Butfato 5 Washington 2: Philadelphia 5 Pittoburgh 1; Tumpa Bay 4 Chicago 1; St Louis 3 Los Afgeles 2 (of); Calgary 1 NY Flangers 1 (of); Colorado 3 San Jose 2; Vancouver 2 Taron-to 2 (of).

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inport; Fourth round: House; bt S Buckton (SA)

Motorcycling. John Kocinski, the world Superbles chempton, grabbed provisional pole position for tomorrow's final round of the series in the opening qualitying session in Sentul, indonests.

Olympic Games Olympic Games
China's sports minister, Wu Shaozu, yesterday announced that Peking is not seriously considering bidding for the 2008 Olympics, after its last bid, for the summer games in 2000, was rejected for "non-sports factors".

Motor racing Ukyo Katayama yesierday amounced that he is retiring from Formula One racing at the end of this season.

SUPER LEAGUE World club challenge SUPER Printers Broncos 22 Audiand

Rugby Union Liam Botham will make his Cardiff de-

but in next Tuesday's flendly against Caerphilly. Bothern has just sterled a one-month trial with the Weish cub. Deve Egerton, the former Bath and England No 8, has been appointed coach of the England Students and South-West Divisional Under-21's. He will be essisted with the divisional side by Bath's former England tull-back John Callard.

John Callerd.

Al Chemon, the Canadian international, will make his first appearance of the season for Moseley in today's Alliad Dunbar Premiership Two match against Sedford.

Simon McCracken, the 27-year-old Ebbw Vale full-back, has broken a leg for the second time in two years. McCracken, who was a Wales youth cap against Canada in 1989, played for Blackwood and Newport before joining Ebbw Vale lest season.

Snooker Stephen Hendry collected the play-er of the yeer award, for the seventh time in eight years, at the armuel World Professional Billiards and Snooker As-sociation funch in London yesterday.

Cradley Heathers are to re-form for a match against Wolves on 20 Octo-ber at Monmore Green.

Swirming
The Addragen Matthew Dunn yester-day smashed the Commonwealth 200 metres individual medicy record at the Australian Championships in Brisbane, winning by almost three seconds.

Dun's time stripped 8/4sec from the record of Canada's Curtis Myden, whose 2min 01/3sec was set at last year's Atlanta Olympics.

Sam Smith, the British No 1 from Essay, and Karen Cross, of Boster, are the only two home players who have received direct entry into the LTA Money Challenger tournament in Schlingarpton next week. The event was be staged at the Hampshire Ten-ess and Health Club from 15-19 Oc-TODES OF THE TOWN AMERICAN TOWN TO THE STATE OF THE STATE

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### It wasn't Sir Hirem who spent half-a-million lire in Rome's Hot Hands Massage Club



THE **GAFFER TAPES** 

joying the lurid sights and his cook. beery sounds of Englishmen

But that's enough of events at the press hotel. I'm here, with the chairman, to help England's World Cup campaign and assess some poten-Hirem Firem may need some personal terms for the Italians I've lined up. One of them wants to stay at Buckingham Palace while he goes house-

I had hoped to get Demetrio Albertini and Paolo Maldini after Milan's poor start to the season, but they refused to budge for anyone except Rund. It was a blow at first tial signings. Both prospects they're vastly overrated. I'm look good to me though Sir sure the lads I've sorted out, Cosi Fan Tutti and Dolce Vita, persuading when it comes to will be a sensation when we unveil them at the Old Comfield.

They'll need to be as the chairman's not happy with me. It's not the football, we gained

the Eternal city is already en- his favourite restaurant to be I told him. I'm now the lead- credit card, the bad news was looked after the practice balls

The problem is over an incident on our first night in Rome and it could have reper- parently Mrs Firem deals with cussions for a while. We'd gone out for a meal and, unfortuhut, to be honest, I think nately, picked up one another's credit cards by mistake after a half-a-million lire in the Hot paying the hill. Had we gone to bed straight after it wouldn't have been a problem but I told him I'd like to go for a stroll by the Tiber first.

Next morning at hreakfast I had to tell him I had some tell you Glenn's left nothing to hunting and the other is de- our first win last week and are good news and some bad news. chance, Having put out and col- pass or shoots wide he stops the

ing contender for the October Pd used it. The money I spent manager of the month award. isn't a problem, he'll dock it off my wages, the difficulty surrounds where I spent it. Apthe hills and now Sir Hirem's going to have to explain that it wasn't him that ran up a bill of

> Hands Massage Club. Of course, we didn't let a little thing like that distract us from helping the cause. We've both been heavily involved with England's preparation and I can

I can tell you we will have a full sion group aimed at helping the complement for the pre-match warm-up. Sir Hirem has made sure the lads won't lack for that it. For really bad cases, like bringing out plenty of tea-bags. He even went to the effort of having some PG Tips sent out after Glenn told him Tony Adams and Paul Merson don't

drink Tetley's anymore. It's been instructive watchmg Glenn's training sessions. He's very much a player's manager. Every time someone misses a tackle, makes a bad

Bon jorno from Roma where manding we sign the chef from now only five points adrift. As The good news was I had his lected all the cones myself and play and calls everyone into a internal injuries he suffered last circle. He then holds a discusunfortunate player to accept his mistake and come to terms with vital half-time lift either by when Gazza was nutmegged by opening a supermarket, but

> one-to-one basis. It's all come a long way from the days when the worst trainer had to wear a pair of the tea lady's knickers outside their

trousers in the pub afterwards. Meanwhile, there's been good news from home with Ego Massive recuperating well from

the operation on the horrible

week. I'd told him that celebratory jump over the corner flag was not a good idea.

Ivor Niggle's also getting better after cutting his hand David Batty, he sits the player Shaun Prone has pulled andown and counsels him on a other muscle climbing off the treatment table.

Have to go as Glenn and I are off to the Vatican for a quick good-tuck prayer. I know we beat Poland but I'm sure the Pope won't hold that against us. As they don't say in Roma, Forceps Ingly Terra.

Barry Gaffer was talking to

### You've never been a proper manager until you've been sacked

fortnight you could use the old joke about London buses to describe managers getting the sack: there hadn't been one for ages, hut now several have in 1996 said: "Kirstine's out, come along at once.

Just when it seemed conceivable that chairmen had de- ment." cided to invest that precious managers, in the space of 13 days Micky Adams, Brian Horton and Jan Molby went the way of Kerry Dixon and Mervyn Day and joined this season's sack race.

back in management, filling Molby's sizeable hot seat at Swansea City before it had time to grow cold. So, early Octoher, and the managerial merry-go-round is already in full

But it is encouraging to remember that by this time last vear twice as many managers had been handed their P45s. and they included some big fish. namely Bruce Rioch at Arsenal and Howard Wilkinson at Leeds.

So far this season, the Premiership managerial roll call remains intact, although some managers appear to be on decidedly shaky ground. Most bookies are no longer taking bets on the odds-on favourite for the chop, but the fact that Ladhrokes are quoting Spurs at 250-1 for the Premiership tells its own story. There is a certain former Spurs manager up at Hillsboruugh who must be looking over his shoulder, too.

Of course, should Gerry Francis decide (or Alan Sugar decide for him) that tending his pigeous is preferable to trying to salvage Spurs' season, the fans' choice as his successor would not be available, as he is gainfully employed elsewhere managing England.

Most managers accept that being sacked is part of the job. Wilkinson maintains that "there are only two kinds of managers: those who've heen sacked, and those who will be sacked", while Brian Horton, who was booted out of Huddersfield on Monday, claims that "you've never really been a manager until you've been sacked". By that token Horton is well and truly a manager, having previously been given a golden handshake by Manchester City.

ther ahead in the sack race than most. The message on Barry Fry's answerphone after be had been fired by Birmingham and I'm down the Joh Centre as usual looking for employ-

Being the chullient characcommodity called faith in their ter he is, Fry always seems to hounce back. Others - like Danny Bergara, who got an exceedingly raw deal when he was sacked by Stockport in 1995 find it harder to recover from an event that caps what is al-Of course, Adams is already ready a highly stressful job.



OLIVIA BLAIR

### ON THE **PROSPECTS** AFTER FOOTBALL

Even Alex Ferguson admitted that if he had known 10 years ago what the Manchester United job entailed, he would not have taken it.

Yet managers have nothing tu help them deal with the stresses of a joh which John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers' Association, claims is "no longer sustainable in its current form: as all things to all people".

With this in mind the LMA. the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association, with input from the academics at Loughborough University, are proposing a

Some, like Horton, are fur- number of courses aimed at preparing managers for modern management more thoroughly by teaching them time and people management, and crucially - PR skills. The idea, says Barnwell, is to "redefine the manager's role so that, among other things, he stays in the joh longer and has a better

> Of course, football being the insular profession it is, there are limited options open to those who are out of work, permanently or otherwise. Few try their hand at anything other than improving their golf handicaps, fishing, selling insurance, running sports shops or pubs, writing revealing (or not-so-revealing) autohiographies or even, in George Graham's case, tending their roses.

And while there is quite a cottage industry developing among managers who become overnight experts in punditry, few are likely to branch out quite as hravely as Bergara is planning to do.

The Uruguayan describes himself as having "fallen out of love with football" after his Stockport débacle, so he is taking a major step sideways and hoping to set up shop as a freelance photojournalist after completing a course in November. However, his subject will - of course - be football. "It's what I know," he says, "and I can ask leading questions because I have the leading answers; after all, I've been in the game 40 years."

Bergara's example is a unique one. The LMA more usually helps jobless managers find something "to keep the rust off", as Barnwell puts it. Most tend to end up in associated roles as chief scouts or youth development officers, which Keith Burkinshaw - who to all intents and purposes jumped hefore he was pushed out at Spurs in 1984 and is now director of football at Aherdeen - politely describes as "pottering about in something less

Which is surely what Graeme Souness is now doing at Torino. Sacked - sorry, moved sideways - after four months as manager, Souncess has apparently taken up the role year war late in the last century. of, er, strategic adviser to the Serie B cluh. Your guess is as good as mine.

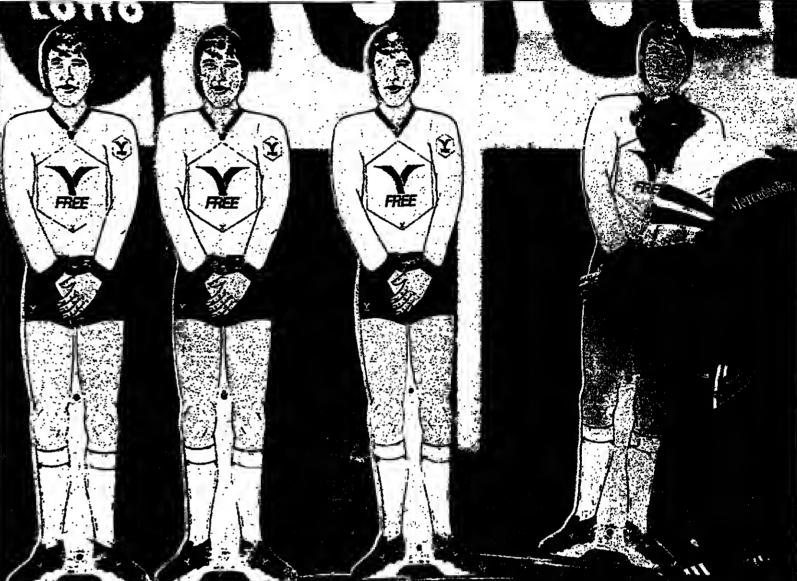
Berti Vogts, Germany's coach, lines up some dummies prior to free-kick practice during training

in Hanover this week. After the

Germany need just a draw against Nowotny, Sven Kmetsch and the Albanians, Group Nine's bottom team, to win the section and qualify for France. The European champions will be without lürgen Klinsmann. Matthias Sammer, Ulf Kirsten, Lars Ricken, Christian Worns, Jens

maybe Jörg Heinrich, so Vogts side may well be experimental. "We need just one point but, despite all our injury problems, I expect a clear victory," he said yesterday. "Anything less would not satisfy me."

Albania's coach, Astrit Hafizi, said: "It will be a very difficult match but we will do our best. We have gone through a time full of difficulties and problems which I hope will never happen again," he added in reference to the recent turmoil in his country.



injuries that have afflicted his squad, Vogts might have to field some of them against Albania

### Witch doctors brandish the knives, skulls and crucifixes

#### Chile v Peru

The fourth and final South American place at next year's World Cup finals could be decided tomorrow. If Peru win in Chile, the Peruvians will confirm their ticket for France and eliminate the Chileans from contention.

Peru are fourth in the standings, behind Argentina, Colomhia and Paraguay, who have all already qualified, and three points above Chile. The huild-up to tomorrow's

game in Santiago has been hizarre, to say the least. Little love has been lost between the two Pacific nations since Chile annexed two nitrate-rich Peruvian provinces after a four-Animosity still exists, and has heen magnified by this match. In Lima, the Peruvian cap-

ital, witch doctors have been doing their best to help their team's cause. Dancing, chanting and brandishing a hizarre collection of knives, skulls and crucifixes, they cast a series spells on Thursday intended to guarantee victory for Peru.

The so-called "Shaman of the Andes", Juan Osco, led six fellow medicine men in rituals intended to surround the Peruvian players with positive energy and hring bad fortune down on their rivals. "Long live Peru," shouted the cloaked witch-doctors as they spat alcohul over team photos, raised deer's feet to ensure swiftfootedness and held the claws of a condor bird to guarantee

fighting spirit "Let them have cramp! Let them remain hlind night and day," they also chanted, stab-



hing knives at a Chilean team shirt hung upside down during the ceremony in a Lima square.

RUPERT

METCALF

Back in Santiago, the Chilcan coach was not slow to use some provocative words. "Our country is more educated than

yours," Nelson Acosta told Pe- sentence for hitting a stadium ruvian journalists.

The Chilean president, Eduardo Frei, has tried to play peacemaker. "This is a football match, it is a sport and it does not make sense to treat it as guerrilla warfare between two hrother nations. We have to keep a sense of proportion," he pleaded - probably in vain.

#### Paraguay

The Paraguayans have already qualified for France, and their goalkeeper, José Luis Chilavert, looks certain to be one of the characters of the tournament.

Famous for scoring goals from penalties and free-kicks, he was hanned for four World Cup qualifiers this year after punching Colombia's Faustino Asprilla. Last year he got a three-month suspended jail

steward while playing for his Argentinian cluh, Velez Sarsfield. Now he has made his mark in the political arena.

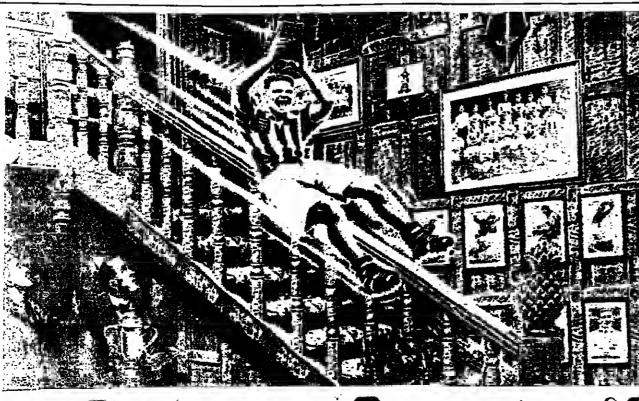
Chilavert was approached in 1 a Buenos Aires hotel last month hy Liño Oviedo, a former general and now a Paraguayan presidential candidate. Oviedo wanted to pay his respects - and doubtless secure a valuable photo opportunity.

"I told him I couldn't embrace him," Chilavert said, "because I think he put Paraguayan democracy in danger. When Oviedo's aides heard what I said they started to insult me. Then they tried to attack me and I defended myself."

The ensuing brawl made headlines in Argentina and Paraguay - hut probably not the sort that Oviedo wanted.

erang Marie si Majaga

let is



## NEW PLANTERS



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## 23/FOOTBALL

### SIDELINES

### Valiant old heroes of the Potteries

An old rivalry will be played out in a new setting when Stoke City meet Port Vale in the Britannia Stadium tomorrow - but will the Potters'



famous president be so sad if the derby honours finish even? Sir Stanley Manhews, who had two legendary spells with Stoke, makes no secret of his early devotion to their rivals. After retiring at 50, Sir Stan managed Vale and reprised his wing wizardry for them in friendlies.

Over 100 players have appeared for both clubs. When Billy Rowley, later England's goalkeeper, moved from Vale to Stoke 101 years ago, the neighbours' court-room wrangle over his cootract set the tone for relations.

Several Stoke stalwarts have managed Vale: Jackie Mudie, Alan Bloor and Freddie Steele, who led them to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1954. Mark Chamberlain represented England soon after leaving the Valiants for the Victoria Ground aged 20 in 1982, whereas Vale's ex-Stoke men, like Jimmy Greenhoff, Alan Dodd and Eric Skeels, have tended to be at the veteran stage.

Yet two Burslem heroes, Roy Sproson and Robbie Earle, were snapped up as teenagers oo being spurned by Stoke. Meanwhile, Mike Pejic will coach the home side tomorrow - the former Stoke full-back won damages for unfair dismissal by Vale. In terms of footballing compatibility, it often seems the opposite ends of the Six Towns remain worlds

Ten things that Paul Gascoigne might be missing in Glasgow today



I The art, music, theatre. dance and literature that made Glasgow the European City of Culture

2 Graceful architecture by Charles Rennie Mackintosh The coliseum's : hardly subtle, is it?

hibition about Caesar's mistress, hut a Glasgow which is popular with studeot ourses.

4 Barras market. Not used to make. quite Armani, Versace 9 Irn Bru. hot fashions dirt cheap. 5 Political efficiency -

 $\chi_{t} \in \mathfrak{p}_{A,t} \cap \mathfrak{p}_{A}$ 

10 mm

the Italian government makes Glasgow City Council look organised. 6 The renowned Nardini family, purveyors of the finest ice cream. (Not to meotion Daniela Nardini, This Life's Anna).

7 Touching gestures -

3 Cleopatra's. Not an ex- Eternal City romance has oothing to match a Glasgow kiss. West Eod nightcluh 8 Neeps, tatties, fish sup-

pers, Scotch pies and bridies – just like mamma

A HISTORY

The last time England qual-ified for the World Cup fi-

oals was in 1989, with the

circumstances remarkably

similar to today's. Eight

years ago to the day, Bobby

Rohsoo's team went to

Chorzow needing a draw

against Poland. The mission

was duly accomplished, Pe-

ter Shilton's outstanding dis-

play earning a goalless draw.

that day, only Stuart Pearce

is still in contention for an

England place. Des Walker

and Peter Beardsley are the

only others still appearing

regularly in the Premiership,

although Gary Stevens (Tran-

mere), Chris Waddle (Buru-

ley) and David Rocastle

(Chelsea) are all still playing.

Of the team that played

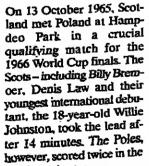
LESSON

and Gucci, but pleoty of 10 Marvelling at the colourful but impecetrable language.

#### NAME OF THE GAME No 4: LEYTON ORIENT

Few clubs have had as many came changes as the Os who, since their formation in 1881, have been called Glyn Cricket and Football Club, Eagle FC, Clapton Orient, Orient and Leyton Oricot. The "Orient" part of the name dates back to 1888, wheo many of the players worked for the Orient Shipping Line. The cluh is thought to have been formed by members of Homertoo Theological College who wanted to play cricket - when their first cricket season finished they stayed together in the winter to play football.





last five minutes. "Stunned ioto silence. sickened by defeat, 107,000 Scots suddenly poured boos down on to their beateo team from the towering terraces," read the next day's paper. The unexpected defeat effectively left them unable to qualify. Their last two matches, a win and a loss against Italy, confirmed this.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS: Chris Maraden (rid-fielder) Stockport to Birmingham (500000): Psul Braceweit (rid-fielder) Sunderland to Fulkam £75000): Christiae Warren (torward) Sustiampton to Boumamouth (undi-closed fee): Micky Mohan (defend-er) Bradford City to Wycombe (undisclosed fee): Micheal Rodos-thenous forward) West Bromwich to Carrhridge Utd (undisclosed lee): Ja-son Peake (defender) Brighton to Bury (freel): Jason White (forward) Northampton to Rotherham (free).

LOANS/TRIALS: Value Gistasson (mid-fisider) Assenti to Brighton; Brien Bor-rows (diencier) Coventry to Swindon; Devid Rocestie (midfielder) Cheltes to Hui Cry; Pusi Sampson (midfielder) Der-by to Wolves: Marric Deville (midfielder) Solet to Essier; Same Plansy (Govard; Swindon to Cambridge Utd; Gay Branston (utility) Lelicisser to Rushden & Diemonds; Dietzer Beleradorfer (die fender) Reggians (1) to Lelicaster (frei); Armold Well (midfielder) Porto to Hib-arrian (trial); Iver Inglansesson (de-fender) Vehr Raykjavk ((ce) to Ipsakth (trial).

Contributors: Ptill Staw, Nick Harris, Paul Neuman, Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Stdailnes, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada welcome. Send to Stdailnes, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whari, London E14 50L. E-mail: sport@independent.co.uk.

### Simpson joins Molineux men

Wolverhamptoo Waoderers Todd has denied reports that have signed the Derby Couoty winger Paul Simpson on Ioan and the Molineux manager, Mark McGhee, is hoping to secure a permaneot deal.

Simpson, 31, who is valued at around £75,000, will go straight into the squad for tomorrow's West Midlands derby with Birmingham City at St Andrew's,

The former Manchester City and Oxford United player has been out of the first-team picture at Pride Park this sea-500, hut has impressed McGhee in the reserves.

"They don't want a lot of money for him and what I said to the boy is that I don't want him here if all he is going to do is clutter up the place by not being to the team," the Wolves manager said. "But, if he comes and proves he can make a contribution this season, theo he can stay and he is up for the challenge. He wants to play first-team football."

The Welsh international defeoder Adrian Williams has returned to Molineux after being pulled out of the World Cup qualifier with Belgium because

of an Achilles injury. The Boltoo manager Colio

the midfielder, Jamie Pollock, has asked to go oo the transfer list. "The situation is that Jamie has been doing a job for the team and has been asked to play out of position," Todd said. "I have been playing him wide oo the right, whereas his favourite position is in central midfield,

accommodate him so far. "The player is disappointed and unhappy, but we've talked it through and I've agreed that, if an offer comes along that is right for the etuh and the player, then we wilt listed to it."

where I have not been able to

Pollock, 23, a former England Under-21 international, joiced Botton for £1m just under a year ago from the Spanish outfit Osasuna, after first making his name with Middleshrough. The Manchester City mao-

ager Frank Clarke is facing a selection crisis after hearing that Uwe Rösler has been ruled out of action for six weeks. Clarke may be forced to buy a replacement for the German forward, who damaged ankle ligameots in a friendly with an Italian select XI this week.

The transfer-listed Rösler will oot be available agaio

until late November, which will also put an end to his chance of a move to Everton.

Rösler's lay-off leaves City short of bodies. There are fears for Paul Dickov, who went to hospital for a scan oo his knee yesterday after picking up an iniury in the same game.

Dickov could need a minor operation, and that would leave City with just their record signing Lee Bradbury in attack as they try to escape the bottom half of the First Division.

The West Bromwich Albion striker Paul Peschisolido has rejected an improved contract with the Hawthorns club. He had said earlier in the week that he was "very close" to signing a two-year extension to his current deal, which has 18 mooths to run. Then talks hroke down, with the Canadian international and Albion unable to reach agreement. The 26-year-old insisted: "I woo't be signing a oew deal."

Peschisolido, who dropped his ageot Eric Hall from the talks after he was involved in a row with Albioo's chief executive, Joho Wile, said: "I met with chairman Tooy Hale but we could not reach agreement."

- Rupert Metcalf



Peschisolido: rejected new contract

### Young Scots humbled by 10-man Latvia

Simon Buckland reports from Livingston Scotland Under-21 ..... Latvia Under-21 .....4

A head butt by the Latvian goalkeeper, Alexander Kolinko, briefly sparked Scotland's Under-21 side into life - but the visitors were still too strong even with 10 men in a European Under-21 Championship qualifier of high drama at Almondvale stadium yesterday.

It was a tale of two keepers. with Queeo of the South's 19year-old David Mathiesoo enduring a painful afternoon, sharing at least some blame for each of Latvia's four goals.

Michael Craig, the oephew of Scotland's coach, Tommy, was the victim of Kolinko's moment of madness which reduced the visitors to 10 men when leading 2-0. Craig Jnr was forced off injured in the incident and, as it occurred in the area, the referee, Milan Mitrovic, awarded a penalty, which

was converted by Dundee's Iain Anderson after 32 minutes. Theo Craig's replacement, David Graham of Rangers, levelled the score after 44 minutes with a close-range effort.

That cancelled out a Latvian lead gained with early strikes by Nikolai Polakov after nine minutes and Igor Slesarchuk after 21 minutes - each aided by some uncertain keeping from Mathieson. However, while Scotland

were able to exploit their extra man initially, further lapses in

concentration from Mathieson led to second-half goals from Erik Pelcis after 54 minutes and Vsevolod Lidak, three minutes later, which secured victory for the Latvians.

Neither side were in conteotioo for the knock-out stages of the Under-21 Championship. This defeat was the Scots' seveoth defeat of a dismal campaign, which has seeo only seveo points gained from 10

"It is a learning process for these lads," Craig Snr said. "I

think they now recognise that mistakes get punished at this level, as we were agaiost a stroog physical side today."

#### George Farm's message would probably have been: 'Get lost, don't bother me again'

I play football at every opportunity nowadays, so it is difficult to recall a time in my life when I would rather watch than play, but for a time in my teens that was indeed the case. I played for the school team on Saturday mornings and would rather go to Bioomfield Road to watch Blackpool io the afternoon than turn out again for Blackpool Boys Club with sopping wet boots.

I had been watching the Pool since I was seven, round about the time they won the FA Cup in the famous "Matthews Final" of 1953. Sadly, I did not see their moment of triumph. Watching the match on television at a friend's house, we decided it was a lost cause at 3-1 down to Bolton and went out to play on our bikes oblivious to the great comeback culminating in Bill Perry's last-minute

However, I was a regular pool finished second in the League to Manchester United. I used to spend hours waiting for autographs outside the ground. Day after day in the school holidays the players would sign a different photograph in my scrapbook.

The most clusive players were the great Stan Matthews and the Scottish goalkeeper Eddie Clamp, the Wolves George Farm. I am sure Stan. had a secret exit from Bloomfield Road, because I only ever caught him coce or twice. He proved as difficult for autograph hunters as he kids: "Please put best wishwas for the hapless full-backs who had to mark him for 90

George Farm was not quite so chisive, in fact, but he spent hours on his pedicure after training and was a terrible grouch when he eventually appeared at the players' entrance, glowering at the two or three kids still there while their lunch was going cold on inum's kitchen table.

"Didn't I give it to you yesterday?" he would growi, as I tentatively shoved an action picture under his nose. Then

FAN'S EYE VIEW No 227



BLACKPOOL

GRAHAM KELLY

peo to carefully inscribe Geo" Farm.

You had to be particularly careful about which photograph to select for his antograph. It would have been three years later when Black- a very reckless child who asked Farm to sign anything from the 1953 Cup final, when he let in a couple of soft

> My favourite signature of all - apart, that is, from the greats such as Pele, Di Stefano and Puskas obtained in excruciatingly embarrassing fashioo in much later years - was an unlikely one. and England wing-half, prefixed his name "Yours in sport". I thought this was really cool. Much better than having to beg, like some

> I often wondered what George "Geo" Farm would have written if anyone ever dared ask for a special message. Probably "Get lost, don't bother me again."

George Farm was a perfectionist, always immaculately turned out, who was capped 10 times by Scotland despite employing a highly unusual technique to catch the ball, a nutcracker-type style with one hand above and one

hand below the ball. He once injured a shoul-

days and moved to striker to head a goal in a 6-2 win over hated local rivals Preston North End. 1 was sitting oo the wall behind the goal. Happy days.

I followed Blackpool for many years. I thrilled at the electric skill of Tony Green before his career was prematurely ended by injury after his move to Newcastle.

Alan Buddick came the other way in 1966 - a beautiful player, but one for whom the word enigmatic was surely specially coined. I often ask Jim Armfield about him now, but Jim, who has always takeo his game seriously, teods to clam op, distrustful 1 suspect of anyone who did not make the most of the sublime gifts he had been hlessed

Barrie Martin, a full-back of upright style, played a costly and ill-judged passback on one occasion from just outside the penalty area near the players' tunnel. Dear old Ellis Tomlinson, our football master at school, termed that corner of the pitch "Martin's Folly".

1 still watch Blackpool whenever doties allow. But since my move away from Lancashire to the Football Associatioo oearly 10 years ago, I have oever seen them

The seasoo before last 1 stayed away after a hard-won draw at Peterborough in March. Pool were top in April, theo dipped to finish

A first leg play-off semifinal at Bradford City was won 2-0. Promotion to Division One looked certain.

For the second leg at Bloomfield Road I followed Gary Lineker's famous advice about Wimbledon and "watched" the match on Teletext. Agonisingly 0-1 became 0-2. Nothing in life was surer than that 0-2 would flick over to 0-3 in the closing

lardyce lost his job.

It did, and big Sam Al-

Graham Kelly is chief executive he pulled out his own fountain der in those pre-substitute of the Football Association

#### Swindon closing in on Forest at the top

Today's top First Divisioo game will be looking to maintain sees Bury, promoted in May, their 100 per ceot record at travelling to third-placed Swin- Craveo Cottage in the Keegao don. The Wiltshire side can go within one point of Nottingham Forest at the top if they win.

Bury's fellow divisional newcomers, Stockport and Crewe (both curreotly just above midtable Bury) both play lower opposition, at home to Oxford United and away at Reading respectively.

Tomorrow is First Division derby day, with Birmingham hosting Wolverhampton Wanderers and Stoke City facing Port Vale in the Potteries encounter at the Victoria Ground.

lo the Second Division. Northampton can go top of the table if they win away at Grimsby. The Cobblers, promoted in May, have lost just one League game this season, oo the opening day. Elsewhere, Fulham

era when they meet Blackpool. Fulham beat Oldham 3-1 last Saturday while Blackpool lost 2-1 to Millwall.

Oldham and Millwall them-

selves meet today at the New Den, with Oldham knowing they can leapfrog their opponents into the top six if they win, and Millwall knowing they can maintain their promotion challenge if they prevail themselves. In the Third Divisioo, Micky

Adams makes a quick managerial comeback after leaving Fulham as he takes charge of struggling Swansea City, who sacked Jan Molby in midweek. Adams faces a difficult first game in charge, taking Swansea, fifth from bottom of the League, to Exeter, who are third in the division.

#### Major weekend fixtures and pools check

Today 3.0 unless stated

Nationwide League

First Division Resoling v Crews Stockport v Oxdord Utd .....

#### Swindon v Bury .

- Second Division 4 Burnley v Carlisle ..... 5 Chesterfield v Wigan
- 6 Fulham v Blackpool ... 7 Gillingham v Wycombe
- Grimsby v Northempto - Luton v Plymouth ... 9 Milwell v Olchem ...
- 11 Southend v Bristol City ...
- Watesti v Wrex
- Third Division t3 Chester v Brighton Exerter v Swansea ......
- 19 Notes County v Macclesfield ... 20 Peterborough v Coichester ... 21 Rochdele v Derlington .... 22 Strewebury v Barnet .....
- GM Vauxhall Conference
- 23 Fernborough v Morecembe ..... 24 Hayes v Stalybridge 25 Northwich v Hedner
- 26 Rushden v Hereford ... 27 Southport v Kiddem
- Third Division

- Ross Co v Queen's Park (10) World Cup Group One 28 Greece v Denmark (7.0) (at Olympic stadium, Athens) 29 Slovenia v Creatia (70) ..... tet Bezigrad stadium, Ljubljan

World Cup Group Two 30 Georgia v Poland (120) (at Boris Palchedze stadium 31 Italy v England (745) ... (at Stadio Olimpico, Rome)

World Cup Group Three 32 Finland v Hungery (S0) ..... (at Olympia stadium, Halainki) 33 Switzerland v Azerbaljan (70) (at Wankdorf stedlum, Berne)

World Cup Group Four 34 Austria v Belarus (30) ...... (et Ernst Happel stadium, Vienna) 35 Scotland v Letvia (30) .... (at Ceitic Park, Glasgow) 36 Sweden v Estonia (30) .... (at Resunda stadium, Stockh

World Cup Group Five 37 Cyprus y Luxembourg (5.0) . (at Makanon stedium, Nicosia)

World Cup Group Six 39 Czech Rep v Stovakia (70), (at Letna stadium, Pregue) 40 Malta v Yugoslavia (7.0) (at Ta Oeli stadium, Valletta) 41 Spain v Feroe isles (70) ... (et El Molinon stadium, Gyon

World Cup Group Seven 43 Netherlands v Turkey (70)

World Cup Group Eight

World Cup Group Nine

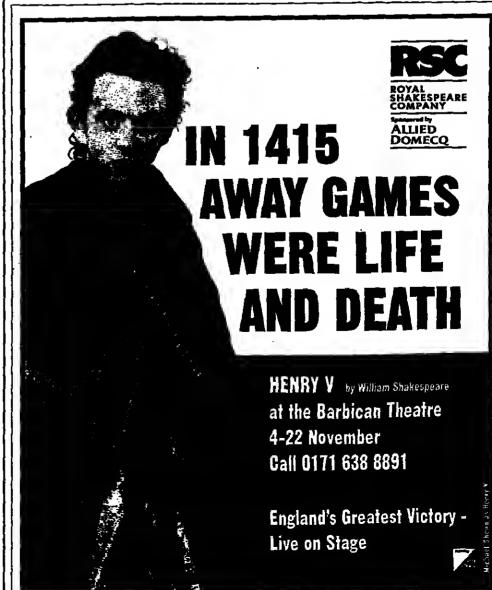
47 Armenia v Ukraine (5.30) ... (at Rezden stadium, Yerevan)

48 Germany v Albania (5.30) ...

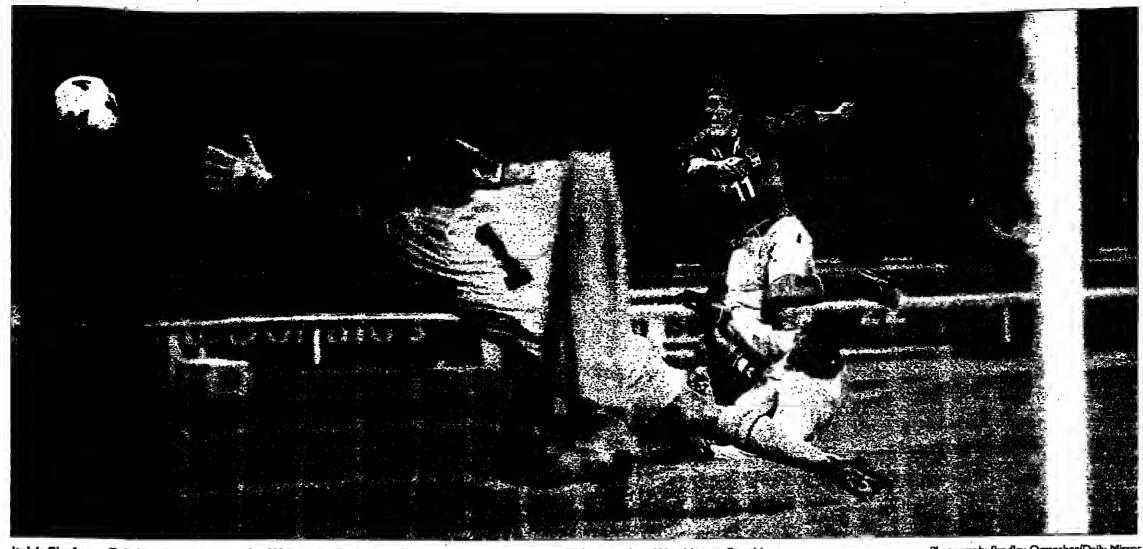
40 Portugal v N Ireland (530) ... (et Estadio da Luz, Lisbon)

Nationwide League First Division Birmingham v Wolves (40) ....

Stoke v Port Vale (10) .



### Seaman on a mission to prevent Zola repeating himself



Italy's Gianfranco Zola hits the winner past Ian Walker, the England goalkeeper, in the World Cup qualifying match at Wembley earlier this year

### Talisman with a talent for tormenting Englishmen

Do you man-mark him. isolate him or just kick him? Gianfranco Zola scored the goal that beat England at Wembley in February and is the man most likely to beat them

Guy Hodgson canvasses opinion on how you counter the diminutive Italian.

It seems a ridiculous assumption now, but one man and one match told Gianfranco Zola he vould never prosper in the Premiership. Intriguingly, the instrument of the Italian's despair will be available to England in Rome tonight.

Zola did not play in the European Cup-Winners' Cup final in 1994. He was on the pitch for Parma that night in Copenhagen all right, but he did not figure, such was the suffocating effect of Tony Adams.

The uncompromising Arsenal captain bullied, marked, tackled and headed clear every time the ball went near Zola, leaving Parma, the holders, deprived of their play-maker and beaten. The bruising and unequal contest left its mark, in all senses of the word, on the Italian.

"It was a joke," Zola, 5ft 6in and 10st 4lh, said. "Adams did not even have to jump to win the ball. That's why I thought I'd be too small to play in England, that all defenders would be like that and that I'd have no chance. But I have grown in

more ways than one since then," His award as Footballer of the Year last May confirms that, and a look at Britain's newspapers this week provide further endorsement. Daily photographs of the Chelsea striker have appeared like

"man most wanted" posters.

His Premiership opponents have quickly learned to appreciate the Italian. Alex Ferguson said after Zola had scored a delightful goal against Manchester United last spring: "He's better than I thought he was." It is something a lot of oppohis late arrival in Serie A with Napou at the age of 23.

Deft, strong, difficult to intimidate, but above all hursting with imagination, he joined forces with Diego Maradona to help Napoli win an Italian title and was anomited by the Argentine as his successor. For Parma, Chelsea and Italy since he has brought verve and dangerous unpredictability.

For his part Zola has greatly enjoyed his time in England, even going so far as to suggest yesterday that there would be a touch of regret if he did score tonight, "I am sorry I have to play against England," he said. "I am having a great season with Chelsea. I am enjoying myself so much in England that that's why I will feel a little sad. I am usually pleased to score many goals for Italy, but it will not

please me to score tomorrow. So how do you stop him? Glenn Hoddle, the England coach has said he will not manmark the Italian fearing it will

distort the team's shape, which could be a smokescreen as Newcastle's sabre-toothed tackler David Batty was forged for the job. Certainly the conventional wisdom in the Premier-

ship is to stick close to the

32-year-old Sardinian and pray.

Leeds, Sunderland, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest all assigned one man to nullify Zola last season and all were rewarded. "I was in two minds whether to man-mark him," Stuart Pearce, Forest's player-manager when they met Chelsea last January, nents have discovered since said. "Then I spoke to Des Walker. He said Sheffield when they put Peter Atherton on him and that made my mind up. I did the same with Des Lyt-

> How great, Pearce discovered first hand a month later at Wemhley. The England defender rose but missed a header that allowed Zola an opportunity. Sol Campbell raced across the area to eradicate the danger but he arrived just in time to get a faint touch that turned the Italian's shot inside Ian Walker's near post. A half-chance to Zola, no

tle and it worked. He kept a

great player out of the game."

chance for England. "He can disappear and then pop up," England's Graeme Le Saux said of his Chelsea teammate this week. "If you're not aware you'll get caught. His movement is his big asset as he proved with his goal at Wemhley. We have to be aware of that and anticipate what he is going to do. At least we know more about him now."



Hoddle tried to huy Zola

when he was manager at

Chelsea, deterred only by an

£8m asking price that was cut

almost in half by the time Ruud

Gullit did get him to Stamford

Bridge. The England coach

needs no persuading of his tal-

ent but believes familiarity will

quantity that was relatively un-

known in February, whereas

now they have met him in the

Premiership, "Sure, we've got to

respect Zola," Hoddle said.

"Having said that, a lot of our

players have played against him

now and they recognise some of

his moves. Perhaps now we can

education process with videos

this week, pinpointing his runs.

"The thing is to know when to

go with him and when to let

and Northern Ireland central

defender, said. "You have to be

careful not leave gaps for oth-

ers to run into. You need to con-

centrate all the time and," he

paused for effect, "get stuck in".

Adams, if fit, but the concen-

tration will have to spread be-

youd the England defender. Or

else Zola will grow a little more.

That, you can safely leave to

Gerry Taggart, the Bolton

someone clse pick him up."

Hoddle has reinforced the

diminish its threat.

### Wembley absentee sets his focus on little feet

If England are to deny Chelsea team-mate would go for Gianfranco Zola in Rome the former option. "Even then tonight they will need he can still hurt you because he's another dominating class," he said. "He's frightenperformance from David ing sometimes. He's got it all: control, touch, use of both feet. Put him one-on-one and he'll say 'See you later' and go past you,

lan Ridley found the England goalkeeper ready

David Seaman is hoping that the week ends more successfully than it began. "He beat me 5-0." England's goalkeeper lamentcd after a fishing trip with Paul Gascoigne. Tonight the aim is the opposite; to keep that figure as slippery as any trout. Gianfranco Zola, from finding

It becomes increasingly difficult to second-guess the Englan coach, Glenn Hoddle. and predict accurately an England team these days but it is usually a pretty safe bet that Seaman's name will be the first on the list, literally and metaphorically.

As seen in the penalty saves of Euro 96, against Scotland and Spain - since when he has conceded only two goals in eight games under Hoddle - his air of calm reassurance is crucial to England. "If the young lads are getting nervous. I'll have a quiet word with them," he says. accepting that he is among the team's elder statesmen. His imposing presence seems also

a deterrent to strikers. It is with a little fellow that he and England are most concerned tonight, however.

Maldini

Milan

"You look at various strikers this time at least we have anjust to see if they do anything different. At set-pieces you can usually see. hut sometimes it's hard to tell who's actually shooting when it's in the game. You are supposed to he watching the hall, you know.

"But I know Zola does pose quite a few problems, especially at free-kicks. He's crafty. He's got such tiny feet and can make the ball do a lot of things with hardly any backlift." Seaman recently reacquainted himself with it all at first hand, when Zola scored

for Chelsea against Arsenal,

Mark Hughes's teasing cross Seaman was absent with a cartilage injury when Zola's shot deflected off Sol Campbell last Fehruary at Wembley. lan Walker then the victim. "I was stuck in a traffic jam on the M25 listening on the radio coming back from the spe-cialist," Seaman recalls,

though he feels as vengeful as any participant that night. There is nothing more we would like to do than beat them after what they did at Wemhley," he says.

It will, he knows, be an intense experience. "I don't know if you can enjoy it. Mayhe afterwards when you get the right result. It's work and there is a lot of pressure hut we know what's coming. what to expect." He is, after all, a veteran of '93 and Rotterdam, almost shuddering at the memory. "That was different. It was sudden death," he says. "If we do get heaten

other chance." Seaman himself does not

expect as physical a test as the other England players. "It is different with goalkeepers because the ref watches and as soon as anyone touches us they give a free-kick. In other parts of the field I expect there will be a lot of man-for-man marking. Man-for-man wrestling, really."

What does concern him are the Olympic Stadium floodlights. "Lights make a massive difference to you. Even Highbury is a totally though the goal owed most to different place at night. Lookhall in the lights and I have done. A lot of keepers do.

"One problem at Arsenal was having six or seven lights so close together in the corners and I managed to get the cluh to change that. The best type for a keeper arc the pylons. But I don't think the Italians are likely to start hitting high balls in there." He has not been successful in getting a training session under the Rome lights, but Hoddle did not seem too concerned. "Goulkeepers will make any

excuse," he said. Seaman was making none about recent errors, notably the goal at Highhury with which PAOK Salonika eliminated Arsenal from the Uefa Cup, which have led some to question his form, though he insists with the promising Austrian Alex Manninger pushing him at Highbury, and an in-torm Dennis Bergkamp and

Ian Wright to practice against, he is sharp enough.

In fact, he believes, his opposite number, Angelo Peruzzi, who conceded three for Juventus against Manchester United last week, will come into the game with more concerns about form. "He looks small hut he gets himself around." Seaman says. "I don't like letting in goals in. I don't know what type of guy he is hut I wouldn't be happy.

"I'm used to criticism," he goes on, adding aptly and accurately. "I am there to be shot at." Though 34, last month, he does not believe he is yet at his still a lot to learn. Plus, I might get another contract

Ray Clemence, England's goalkeeping coach, chips in: "It's because David's mistakes are so rare that people pick them up. It's also easy to forget some of his less publicised contributions, like a great save against Barnsley last Saturday when it was 0-0."

England and Seaman will settle for as much tonight. "It's all about qualifying," he says. "It's all about focusing on not making a mistake."

Though Seaman has been looking relaxed, there has heen no opportunity for his and Gazza's favourite relaxation in Italy. "Besides, if we did go fishing over here, we'd need about 20 policemen with us," he said. Instead, the concentration has been on atlempting to ensure that Italy. sleep with the fishes.

#### THE KEY CONFRONTATIONS; GLENN MOORE'S ANALYSIS OF WHERE THE MATCH WILL BE WON AND LOST



Tottenham Chelsea age: 23

Glenn Hoddle will not be man-mark. The key battle, with temperament as much a factor as ability. Both pairs have . A further chance to assess Beckham's ing Zola hut Campbell is likely to find himself picking up the Sardinian when- The Englishmen will be highly motivated on their return to Italy and will need the world's greatest left-back. At Wemever he moves forward. Zola's great- to keep calm against the inevitable tugs and niggles, especially Gascoigne. est strengths are his movement and . Albertini likes to sit and spray the ball like n quarter-back so Sheringham and on the flank and Maldini, if he plays close control. Campbell, who has be- Wright may be asked to make him hurry, if so he is likely to settle for unspec- there, is unlikely to let him get past on come an international defender of tacular ticking-over passing rather than risk losing possession. Baggio is more the outside on Saturday. Early crossmovement. The experience of Tony pension, Attilio Lombardo may complete their middle trio. Adams may then be needed.

After being partly at fault for Zola's Wemhley goal, Campbell has something to prove and, like most English players, he now knows something of Zola's tricks. Only real concern is occasional tendancy to have an off-day, as recently against Emile Heskey.













Cannavaro marked Shearer out of the game at Wem-

bley in an impressive international debut. He has

retained his place since and his pace is likely to see

him give the joh of marking Wright while Costacur-

lan ta sweeps. Wright knows his international career will Fabio

Arsenal finals which would be unfortunate after such an Parma

33, 28 impressive late international hlossoming.

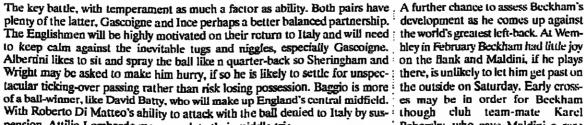
Wright be over if England fad to make the World Cup Cannavaro











stature in the past year, should be equal of a ball-winner, like David Batty, who will make up England's central midfield. es may be in order for Beekham to the control hut may be lost by the With Roberto Di Matteo's ability to attack with the ball denied to Italy by sus- though club team-mate Karel Poborsky, who gave Maldini a rare roasting in Euro '96, may have give him some tips. One of Beckham's main tasks will be defensive as Maldini is a potent force when moving forward. At set-pieces, however, someone else should be deputed to jump with Maldini who is a powerful header. As the Italy manager's son, Maldini will be more motivated than anyone.



24.5.61 (Rome) Italy 2 England 3 14.6.73 (Turin) Italy 2 England 0 14.11.73 (Wembley) England 0 Italy 1 28.5.76 (New York) England 3 Italy 2 17.11.76 (Rome, World Cup Italy 2 England 0 16.11.77 (Wembley, Warld Cup qualifier) England 2 Italy 0 15.6.80 (Turin, European Championships) Italy 1 England 0 6.6.85 (Mexico City) England 1 Italy 2 15.11.89 (Wembley) England 0 Italy 0 7.7.90 (Barl, World Cup finals third-place play-off) Italy 2 England 1 12.2.97 (Wembley, World Cup qualifier) England 0 Italy 1 4.6.97 (Nantes, Le Tournoi) England 2 Italy 0

#### Special occasion to bring out the best in the drinking classes

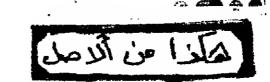
Pubs, clubs and bars across the land are expecting record profits tonight with England's game against Italy being shown live only on Sky, so denying terrestial fans the chance to watch the game from their armchairs if they want to see it as it happens. There are almost 40,000

such drinking establishments in the UK, and they expect to make additional profits of around £20m due to the sale of additional drinks and food. The brewers Carling expect a rise in sales similar to the one they experienced during Euro 96. Andy Sutherden, a Carling spokesman, said that then "volume in puh sales climbed by 28 per cent. We expect a similar reaction on Saturday".

Bars across the country are urging fans to arrive early in order to get a seat and avoid disappointment. Tom Gilman, manager of the Sports Cafe in Loeds said: "We are telling

people to come down by 4pm. Landlords across the country are getting into the spirit of . the occasion. Marc Casey, owner of the Hohgohlin in Bristol, has transformed his pub to give a stadium atmosphere with surround sound speakers connected to two huge screens. The pub's full of red, white and hlue hunting and our famous 'Gazza's dentist chair' where punters down tequila shots,"

Billy Gilligan, landlord of the Scarisbrick Arms in Lancashire, is making a stand against Sky's domination of televised foothall. "We will be watching on ITV at 10.0pm. The windows will all be blacked out during the game and there will be someone on the door warning people not to mention the result. Anyone caught whispering the score will be shown a red card and be banned for four meals. Gilligan said.



### Brown wary of the Latvian threat

Only a team from a tiny **Baltic** state stand between Scotland and automatic qualification the World Cup finals.

The Tartan Army is getting ready to party in the streets of Glasgow, but, as Phil Show discovered, the word from the Scotland camp is caution first,

celebration second.

If, before the schedule for the qualifying series was drawn up, Glenn Hoddle and Craig Brown had been asked to choose between needing only a point from their last match or having to win and still not be certain of reaching the World Cup finals, it is safe to assume neither would have selected the

second option. Had it been explained, however, that the choice would lie between holding Italy in a stadium where they are practically invincible and beating Latvia in a ground beaving with home supporters, the answer might have been different.

By the time eternal enemy get underway in the Eternal City back behind the ball when they

tonight, Celtic Park will have sent the Tartan Army away to become a menace to sobriety.

The signs are, both in terms of Scotland's record under Brown and the precedents of five successful campaigns in the past quarter of a century, that they will be drinking to remember.

"We have to show our usual enthusiasm, but it must be tempered by great concentration" he said, after the final training session beneath a cloudhurst at Kilmernock. "One lapse in that area could beat us.

"Fortunately our players are hugely experienced. A lot of them play in the English Premiership where a second's loss of concentration can kill you."

To some, this may sound like talking up a tiny Baltic state who have beaten only Belarus and Estonia in Group Four. But Brown could take an honours course in the football of the former Soviet republic and his studies convince him that the likes of Vitas Rimkus, a striker be likens to Gerd Müller, and the playmaker, Vladimir Babichev, are a cut above most

of their contemporaries. caution, sees no reason why "Latvis try to play," he they should. "We take optimism warned. "They do get men

GROUP EIGHT: REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

lose possession, but unlike Belarus they look capable of scoring. You worry about them from the point of view of the quick counter-nttack. We need to impose ourselves on the game and dictate the tempo," In keeping with his determinedly low-key style, Brown is unlikely to spring any selection surprises. Despite having only

The Scotland manager Craig Brown (left) and Colin Hendry prepare for action

Photograph: Scottish Daily Record

all in such good form. John Collins, for instance, is now captaining Monaco. Gary McAllister's back to top form after a much needed summer break. Kevin Gellacher's on fire, and Roy Hodgson telis me Colin Hendry has been immense for Blackhurn since he got back to 100 per cent fitness.

These players deserve to qualify for their attitude. The fans deserve it too - we've had from the way we beat Belarus a full house at every home and the fact that our players are game and a fantastic away

following. I saw the Swedes in Belarus and they had about a dozen supporters. We took sevcral bundred."

The match in Minsk produced one of 17 clean sheets in Scotland's last 23 fixtures; incredibly they have let in just three goals in 15 hours of competitive football since losing to England at Euro 96. Reinforced by such statistics, Brown expects to win "t-0 or 2-0" and anticipates that victory would suffice.

"Put it this way," he said, "I'll

be looking for a stewards' inquiry if Spain lose at home to the Faroe Islands and take the best runners-up place."

Whatever the outcome, the Scotland squad will disperse after the game - not to reconvene until Denmark visit Ibrox for a friendly in March - rather than staying together to watch the "other" match.

As part of Channel Five's promotion for their coverage of the Scotland game, Brown appeared on The Jack Docherty Show late on Thursday. "He was trying to set me up to say I hoped England would lose," the manager said, before revealing that bravado does enter his thinking after all.

"I hope they win - and that we then get our revenge by beating them in the World Cup semi-final."

SCOTLAND (Probable, 3-5-2): Leigh Aberdeen): Calderwood (Tottenh

GROUP NINE: NORTHERN IRELAND

#### Lomas keeps the armband

Steve Lomas is set for a long reign as Northern Ireland's captain. His international manager, Bryan Hamilton, was very impressed with how the West Ham midfielder performed in his first match as skipper against Albania last mouth. and had no besitation in handing him the armband again for tonight's World Cup qualifier against Portugal in Lisbon -even though Jim Magilton, who led the Irish against Germany, has returned to the

squad after injury. Lomas, who has 23 caps, may only he 23, but Hamilton

qualities. It is a view shared by the Hammers' manager, Harry Redknapp, who made Lomas his captain earlier this season. "He's young, and could be cap-

Portugal need to win in Benfica's Stadium of Light and hope Ukraine drop points in Armenia to claim second place in Group Nine and a play-off spot, Northern Ireland have drawn their last two matches cluding a fine 1-1 draw in Porto two years ago. "They have

#### Danes steel themselves for Greek onslaught

Peter Schmeichel has become used to keeping goal in front of bostile crowds during all his years with Manchester United, but even he might be taken sback by what lies in wait for him and his Danish team-mates tonight.

Denmark hold a threepoint lead in Group One, hut if they lose to Greece in front of 75,000 fervent fans in Athens' Olympic Stadium tonight they will have to settle for a place in the play-offs and the Greeks will snatch the automatic qualifying place.

Schmeichel is one of five British-based players in the Danes' likely starting XI. Another, Brian Laudrup of Rangers, who is hoping to recover from a tendon injury, knows what is needed tonight. "We have come here to win," he said, "The Greeks have come a long way hut I still believe we are a better team."

His brother, Michael, is fit after a thigh injury but the Derby defender Jacob Laursen will miss the match after pulling a groin muscle, Mikkel Beck, the Middlesbrough striker, has joined the squad as a replacement. "The choice of Beck, a striker, to replace Laursen, a defender is strange," one Danish journalist said, "I fear be was called because Brian Laudrup is still in pain."

The Greek coach, Costas Polychroniou, knows what his plans will be. "We will attack from the first minute hoping for an early goal," he said yesterday.

If the Greeks lose they could be eliminated altogether - if Croatia win in Slovenia. That scenario would earn the Croats a place in the play-offs, where they could be drawn against Yugoslavia.

- Rupert Metcalf

#### McCarthy chooses Houghton

Ray Houghton will captain the Republic of Ireland for the first time in today's World Cup qualifier against Romania in Duhlin - and his manager is convinced he has made a wide choice.

Mick McCarthy named the 35-year-old Reading playercoach as the stand-in captain for the injured Andy Townsend and said: "He's been doing this kind of job for years without actually wearing the armband.

"It's a nice reward for him after all the service be's given Ireland over the years. His qualities are well known to everybody and I have been play-offs on 29 October.

exalting his virtues for ages. Ray is a talker on the pitch, always encouraging other players and leading by example."

for the 2-1 win in Lithuania last month, has been left out of Mc-Cartby's squad this week.

He is one of 11 Republic players on a yellow card; and McCarthy's dilemma is whether to risk any of the others, who could fall foul of suspension for the first leg of the World Cup

Houghton will be Ireland's third different captain in consecutive matches. Aston Villa's Steve Staunton, who took over from the suspended Townsend

#### Giggs given Gould's vote of confidence Reaching that stage is more im-

Ryan Giggs, the new captain of Wales, has revealed that his dream is to lead his country to the World Cup finals. The 23year-old Manchester United winger, who has won medals galore in the English game, even puts his Welsh quest above more titles at Old Trafford.

four caps, Christian Dailly

looks certain to keep his place

in the back three. The return of

Colin Hendry to that unit may

mean Tom Boyd earning his

50th cap in left-midfield at the

expense of Tosh McKinlay,

whose lack of first-team op-portunities with Celtic could

Donnelly has been enjoying 6

scoring streak for the host club.

Gordon Durie's experience

should earn him the nod as

Kevin Gallscher's partner.

McKinlay's ability to deliver

free-kicks and crosses, along

with the drive and scoring

knack of David Hopkin, will

doubtless be summoned if Scot-

ance hetween confidence and

**GROUP SEVEN: WALES** 

Brown, while seeking a bal-

land struggle.

Up front, where Simon

count against him.

Giges takes over as captain from the suspended Gary Speed for the encounter with Belgium in Brussels tonight, with Wales already out of the tournament. He said: "Captaining my country has been a dream of mine. I have thought about it and boped it would

prised it has come so quickly." Only Mike England, at 22, captained the Welsh at a younger age than Cardiff-born Giggs. Bobby Gould, the Wales

manager, will probably restore Speed to the captaincy for Wales' next international - but it is clear that Giggs could well become skipper permanently in . the future.

much for Manchester United but this will be the greatest moment of my life. I will be so proud to lead Wales out. "I do not believe it is out of

Giggs said: "I have won so

question that one day Wales

portant to me personally than anything, but of course I want more titles too with United." Giggs' previous experience

of captaincy was with England Schoolboys, Wales' youth XI and United's youth team. Gould, who will not name his team until just before the

kick-off, said: "This is all part of Ryan's football education. Alex Ferguson has nurtured him at United into a wonderful player. I talked to Ryan briefly before he came out to Brussels and he has reacted very positively to the challenge. It is happen but I am a little sur- will reach the World Cup finals. a great honour for him."

### feels he has great leadership back," Lomas said.

tain for a long time," he said.

against the Portuguese, ingot to go for it, so hopefully they will leave some gaps at the

### World Cup 1998: The countdown to France's festival of football

THE FINALS The World Cup finals start on Wednesday 10 June. The final is at the new Stade de France in Paris on Sunday 12 July. The draw for the World Cup finals will take place in Marseilles on Thursday 4 December. A record number of 32 teams will take part in the finals, which will feature 64 matches.

Finals format: First round: Eight groups of four teams. Second round: Last 16 (group winners and runners-up) knock-out. Quarterfinals: Last eight knockout Semi-finals: Last four knock-out. ALREADY QUALIFIED

Hosts France Holders Brazil Europe Norway Bulgaria Spain Romania · South America Argentina Colombia · Paraguay . Africa Nigeria Morocco Tunisia South Africa Cameroon -Still to qualify: Europe: 11 more teams (six to be decided today). South America: One more team. Concacat: Three teams

Asia-Oceania: Four teams. EUROPE Qualification process: The first round of European qualification ends today with the nine group winners and the best runner-up (see runners-up standings) qualifying directly for the finals. The other eight runners-up will be drawn on Monday in four pairs and play qualifying matches on a home and away basis on 29 October and 15 November. The four winners on aggregate will

also qualify for the finals.



Denmark, who have recalled the Middiesbrough forward Mikkel Beck, trav-el to the cauldron of the Olympic stadium in Athens knowing that a draw will ensure qualification for France. A Greek win, however, would earn the home side top place on goal difference. norme side top places on goal difference. If the Greeks don't win they are likely to miss out altogether, though, because Croatia can be expected to gain meximum points away to their Balkanneighbours, Slovenia, the sections bottom team. That would be enough to earn the Croats a play-off place unless Greece win.

One to watch One to watch

Brian Laudrup (Denmark)

After the Danes
were crushed by
Croatia at Euro 96,
few would have expected Denmark to
be where are now:
four points ahead of
the Croats. The outstending Randers standing Rangers forward can take much of the credit he scored a late leveller in a 1-1 draw

in Croatia and opened the scoring in a 3-1 home win over the Croatis. When he was absent, the Danes were done 3-0 in Bosnis... **Group Two** \_\_7 2 1 4 4 9 7 \_\_8 0 0 8 2 21 0 flotures: Today: Italy v England;

In contrast to Group One, the qualifi-In contrast to Group One, the qualifi-cation equation is simple. If England draw or win, their tans can start book-ing their Eurostar tickets. They might even qualify today if they lose - as long as the Scots do not win.

es the scots of not write.
England have worries over David
Beckham (heavy cold) and Garath
Southgate (trigh injury) while traity's only
known fitness worry, the experienced
sweeper Circ Petrara, is on the road to recovery from a knee injury. traly's Gienfranco Zola has said that his countrymen are at their best when they are up against it. Tonight, we will find out if that is true...

Teddy Sheringham (England)
Not, perhaps, the obvious choice as England's man of the qualifying series but, if Hoddles team get a draw in Rome and top the group descrite taking Only Not, perhaps, the obvious choice as Englands man of the qualifying series but, if Hoddies team get a draw in Rome and top the group despite taking only one point of litaly, they can thank Sheringham, who scored in both Poland and Georgia to help England to away wins which were beyond the flatens against the same exposition.

Andreas Herzog (Austria)

For over a decade the Spanish team has heen stronger in the star of the celevrous the floor at the floor at the floor and the primera Liga always have forward lines filled with expensive threighness. The best of the defences is the durable and combasive Hiero, an experienced Real Machid man who can also play as 9 midfield enforcer.

For over a decade the Spanish team has heen stronger in the Spanish team has heen stronger in the spanish team has heen stronger in the floor at Euro 96, but the colourful teach which is not surprising because the top clubs in the Primera Liga always have forward lines filled with expensive torrighted and combasive Hiero, an experienced Real Machid man who can also play as 9 midfield enforcer.



Norway have won the group easily, so all their remains to be decided is the play-off place. With home advantage, Finland ought to be able to see off a Hungarian side who have nothing in common except nationality with the mighty Magyers of the early 1950s. but I impane of the year deep extension. mightly Magyars of the early 1950s, Jarl Litmanen of Ajax is a class act, while all his Firnish team-mates heve learned much from their coach, Fischard Möller Nielsen, who steered Denmark to success in the 1992 European Championship However, Rengers' Antil Niemi is Injured so the Finns must choose between two inexperienced understudies in goal.

Erik Mykland (Norway) in winning their group, Norway have been untested by world-class opposition. In May, though, e ful-strength Brazil were beaten 4-2 in a friench in Orio. Tree friendly in Oslo. Tore Andre Pio and Pion-

my Johnsen were both in fine form but after the game Romanio wanted to know the name of the player who stole the show with some timiling runs from midfield. The answer: Erik Mykland, who adds fiair to a functional learn.

P W D L P A Pin
Auntria 9 7 1 1 12 4 22
Scotland 9 8 2 1 13 3 20
Sweden 9 8 0 3 15 9 18
Latvia 9 1 1 7 4 15 4
Belerus 9 1 1 7 5 77 4

Austria are inconsistent, but they should be far too good for Belarus and thus win the group. If Scotland also win, at home to Latvia, they will reach the finals as the best of the second-placed teams. Sweden, who will surely beat Estonia, can snatch second place in the unlikely event of the Scots losing in Glasgow.

Even if the unthinkable should happen and the Speniards lose at home to the through the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the through the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the through the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the through the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the through the campaign without dropping apoint, the links will finish second unless Lithuania win in Dublin to go through the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the through the campaign without dropping apoint, the links will finish second unless Lithuania win in Dublin to go through the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the through the campaign without dropping apoint, the links will finish second unless Lithuania win 11-0 in Macedonia.

Still Quality for the finals as the best of the runners-up. As ever, Spein look a solid aids but, because their clubs entries and the special second unless that the injured Keane and Townsend and Inventory to the final second of the special second unless that the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the Speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the speniards lose at home to the campaign without dropping and the speniards lose at home to the campaign withou

One to watch Andreas Herzog (Austria)



Whatever happens today, the top two placings in this group will not change. Bulgaria have qualified for France with the nucleus of the team who reached the last four in 1984: tvanov, Balakov, Lechkov, Stoichkov and Kostadinov. The new players, including Georgi Bachev and Georgi Ivanov, both just promoted from the Under-21 squad, are untested at top level. Russia have rarely looked fluent in the qualifiers and have recalled two veterans for today's game: Injor Dobrovol-ski and the former Milbwall striker Sergei Yuran, now with VfL Bochum in the German Bundesliga.

One to watch
Triffon Ivanov (Bulgaria)
The captain of Bulgaria is one of Europe's most-leared and hairiest — defenders. He also scores vital goals, including the only goal of the game against Russia in Sofia last month, a victory which confirmed Bulgaria's piece in France. A charismatic player who has become something of a cult hero in western Europe, Ivanov will make his mark on the finals in more waye than one... One to watch

Spein (C) 9 7 2 0 23 5 23 \*\*Vagostavis 9 5 1 3 18 7 20 Stoventic 9 5 1 3 18 11 10 Czech Rep 9 5 1 3 18 11 10 Czech Rep 9 1 4 13 6 13 Feros teles 9 0 0 9 2 82 0

One to watch Fernando Hierro (Spain) . The Netherlands will win the group un-less they lose at home to the Turks tonight and Belgium beat Wales 14-0. The Welsh can be a bed side - but not that bad. The Turks could reach the play-offs if they win and so do Wales, but that is not very Brely, either. Marc Overmars has been recalled to the Duich squad to replace the suspended Wim Jonic Other Englishbased players are Overmars' Arsenal colleague Dennis Bergiamo, Notitroham Forests Pierre van Hooldonik and the Chelsea goalkeeper Ed de Goey. Despite injury problems, Belglum have dropped Newcastles Philippe Albert.

Oenois Bergicamp (Netherlands) Oenots Bergicamp (Netherlands)
He has been sconing great goals for
Arsonal all season
and he has also
been prolific for his
country in the qualifiers – as Wales remember to their
cost Bergicamp hit a
het-trick when Bobby Goulds side
were humilisted 7-1 last year. He is more
than just a classic goalscorer, though,
he also makes goals for others. His alround play is outstanding, a coach's

One to watch

Ireland are without the injured Keane and Townsend and have left out osing in Glasgow.

Scotland must not be complecent, though. Although their best player, Vitally Astafyev, is suspended, the Lativians are a decent side who have benefited from the European experience of their socials will be tough opponents for anyone in the play-offs - as long to a sitely do not have to rety on Savo and Gheorghe Popascu.

Statistics and silven so that neither collects their second yellow card of the play-offs. Several players in the substitutes' benches.

The Yugoslavs will be tough opponents of the play-offs - as long reason. Romania still have the stars of USA 94: Gheorghe Hagi, lie Dumitrescu and Gheorghe Popascu.

> One to watch Bogdan Stelez (Romania)

Germany should beat Alberta, whose players seem more interested in seeking political asylum than striving for points away from horne, to win the group, if Ukraine win in Armenia they will be in the play-ofts, but if they cleav they will be overtaken if Portugal beat Northern Ireland at home.

Germany will be without the injured Germany will be without the injured Matthias Sammer, Jürgen Klinsmann and Ulf Kirsten, while Portugals Injured absentees are the defender Jorge Costa and goalkeeper Vitor Beia. Their midfield playmater Rui Costa is suspended.

One to watch Sergel Rebrov (Ukraine) Reaching the play-offs by finishing above the talented Portuguese would be 9 tremendous achievement for a Ukraine side who achievement for a Ukraine side who have made an impact in international football quicker than expected. Much of the cradit must go to the 22-year-old Rebrov, a predatory striker who scored valuable winners away to both Northern Ireland and Albania. He will not stay with Dynamo Kiev for long...

Runners-up standings Runners-up scannings
Runners-up will be ranked according to the
following offisher: 1 Points gained in matches against teems coming top, third and
fourth in group, 2 Goal difference in these
games, 3 Goals scored in these games, 4
Goals accored against these opponents in
taway games. If the best runner-up still carnot be identified, there will be a play-off between the best two games-up on a ings of current second-placed teams, plus Englands record in the relevant games, are as follows:

in the highly unlikely event of Spain losing at home to the Farce lales on Salurday, and Yugoslavia winning in Maita to finish first in Group Sb., Spain will quality for the finals as the best runnerup. Assuming Spain best the Farces, as expected, to win Group Sb., Scotland will top the runners-up table if they best it into. peem Lanvas.
It Scottand fail to win and England lose in Italy, England will finish top of the numeraup table with 12 points - unless results in 
Group Savan allow Beiglum (or the Natherlands) to finish above them. For example, 
If England lose 2-0 and Beiglum best Wales 
6-0, Beiglum would be the best of the numments.

If Scotland feit to win and England draw in Rome, haly will top the runners-up table – barring unlikely results as above.

Europe's World Cup finalists 1974-94 1974 1978 1982 Y= Scotland. Belgium Netherlands. Poland . Austria . Bulgaria England France .. Hungary . Yugoslavia Soviet Union. Rep of Ireland Norway. Portugal

** East Germany qualified in 197 ly; unified Germany played in 19 th Russia did not compete sepa	94 finale.	
SOUTH AMERICA		ASIA
Qualification process: Top four in qualify for finals.  P. W. D. L. F. Assention (Cl. 14, 9, 4, 2, 22)	A Pts	Qualification process: Winners of two ond-round groups qualify for finals. Ru up in each group qualify for play-off at a vanue on 16 November, Play-off winners

Russia = =.

Switzerland

Y - Qualified, N - Failed to qualify

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trugusy; Chile v Peru; Ecuador v Bolivia;	Cater3 0 1 2 1 6
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	di Arabie v Iran; Kuwelt v Catac 31 Oc
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ONCACAF	v China. 7 Nov: Oster v Iran. 12 Nov
addication process: Top three in final-	
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nd league quality for finals.	Group B
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ited States 7 2 4 1 10 7 10	Uzbekistan4 0 7 3 7 12
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Resmaining flotures: Tomorrow: Caracta v Medica 2 Nov: Mesco v United States, 9 Nov: Caracta v United States, 9 Nov: Caracta v United States, 6 Salvador v Jernatos, 1 Nov: Scuth Kornev Japan v United Arab Emistes, 1 Nov: Scuth Kornev Japan, 2 Nov: V Medica, Costa Rica v Caracta, United States United Arab Emistres, 1 Nov: United Arab Emistres, 1 Nov: United Arab Emistres v Exhaustry V Medica Costa Rica v Caracta, United States **AFRICA OCEANIA** Cualification complete: Nigene, Morocco, Australia won preliminary qualifying com-Tunkse, South Africa and Cameroon have petition and will play off against an Asian team qualified for finals.

Text and statistics by Rupert Metcalf and Phil Shaw

### England must battle against history and histrionics

After 13 months and 6,000 miles, England's journey to France 98 and the 16th World Cup has reached a crucial stage. If they avoid defeat against Italy tonight they will qualify for football's biggest tournament for the first time in eight years. If they fail, they will have to face a play-off. From Rome Glenn Moore, our Football Correspondent, assesses their chances.

The last time England played a World Cup tie in Italy, the result was immaterial. When they meet tonight, the result will be everything.

The last encounter, at Italia 90, was the unloved third place play-off. With both countries still shattered by losing semifinals on penalties the game was an irrelevance, memorable only for being unusually open.

Tonight's game is unlikely to be anything like as watchable but an 83,000 crowd, and millions of television viewers in both countries, will be consumed by it. Individual and national pride are at stake, personal and professional fortunes hang in the balance.

The winner has the ultimate prize, a place in next summer's World Cup finals in France, It is a bigger prize than winning the competition itself - for the ignominy, for two such proud footballing countries, of not even being there is immeasurable. It was bad enough for England in 1994, when the finals were in America. Imagine missing out when they are just Italy, just over the Alps

True, there is a second second-placed finisher, they will still have a two-leg play-off. The



Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, takes centre stage yesterday as his squad train for tonight's World Cup qualifier against Italy in Rome

Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

but, with strong sides like Croatia, Russia and Yugoslavia among possible opponents, neither can be sure.

England's task is simple across the Channel, or, for they need a point. But it is not easy. Italy have played 15 World Cup ties in Rome dating back chance. If the runner-up in the more than 60 years and won group does not qualify as the best them all. England have not won in Italy since 1961 and, four years ago, lost to the Nether-Rotterdam when faced the English of passing such a test with an identical assignment. ling, the FA promotions direction nals campaign. Like Paul Ince, them together and you have the such worries over Ince, having

night and will need fortune as well as resilience, skill and nerve this evening. If they have fortune, they could make one. Qualifying for the World Cup will be worth, ciation's marketing chief, £100m to English football. Some of this will filter directly to the players,

up to £200,000 per man. Even by today's standards

motivation in the Stadio Olimpico will not be the money. The chance to play at the pinnacle of the game will be the factor that will encourage playaccording to the Football Asso- ers to keep making the tracking runs, to put a head among flying boots and, hopefully, to assume responsibility.

Of England's present squad only Paul Gascoigne, the inspithis is a tidy sum but Phil Car- ration in 1990, has played in a fi-

They were a little unlucky that tor, is correct when he said the who was yesterday named captain, Tony Adams, Teddy Sheringham and Ian Wright, Gascoigne knows he may not get another opportunity. If he and Ince, the two Serie A veterans, can gain control in midfield England ought to succeed. If they do not England, with fitoess doubts surrounding central defence, may hecome over-dependent on

David Seaman.

ideal midfielder," said Glenn Hoddle, "so they are a well-balanced pair." Technically, maybe, but not always temperamentally.

Gascoigne, according to Hoddle, is maturing fast, but not so fast that he was prepared to risk exposing him to the combined wiles of the English and Italian media. "He can get too tense," admitted Hoddle, "I will be sit-

Hoddle, presumably, has no

chosen him to be captain ahead of Adams, "Paul is made for this game, he is coming back to somewhere where he has a lot of respect and did extremely well," Hoddle said. "Tony is still

on his way back to full fitness.

He has been out a very long

time and, if he starts the game, I want him to be 110 per cent focused on his performance. To ting down and chatting to him." give him the responsibility of

captaincy may hinder that." Given that Adams has coped

with the captaincy of Arsenal and, periodically, England, for more than a decade despite su fering "donkey" abuse, alcoholism and imprisonment, this seems unlikely. However, Hoddle insists that Adams struggied to combine both roles in Arsenal's recent match at Chelsea and he would not want a repeat. Besides, said Hoddle: "Ince will definitely start."

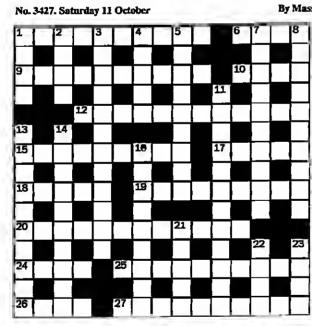
Adams is one of three fitness concerns. Gareth Southgate and David Beckham being the others. While Hoddle'a worries over Adams are about his general physical and mental sharpness, the others are specific Southeate has a stiff thigh while Beckham has a cold. Both are rated 50-50, hut, judging by their condition at training las night, are unlikely to play.

The final selection is still such a mystery. Apart from the fitness doubts, the big debate is whether to play Steve McManaman, and at whose expense and who to play wide left Given England need a draw David Batty is likely to keep McManaman out in a five-man midfield, although on both previous times Hoddle has met Italy he has played one striker up front with two forwards (McManaman and Matt Le Tissier at: Wembley, Sheringham and Paul Scholes in Nantes) tucked in behind. On the left Graeme Le Saux may just see off the chatlenge of Phil Neville (also Beckham's understudy on the right) and Andy Hinchcliffe.

The Italians, who have named their team, will be without Ciro Ferrara. Alessandro Costacurta will sweep behind a back three while Christian Vieri has won the nod to partner;

Gianfranco Zola. While England have failed to qualify for three of the last six World Cups, Italy have not been absent since 1958. At least three of tonight's team played in the last final, when Italy lost to Brazil on penalties. England's task is formidable but achievable. ITALY (1-8-4-2): Penzzit Costacurta: Cannevero; Nesta, Maldini; Lomberdo, Albertini, D. Baggio,

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Last Saturday's solution

**ACROSS** 

Two hirds, audible before me, variegated (10) Eager to see a good turn returned (4) Against wearing lordly

waterproof? (10) Tract has margin moved 4 12 Imperfect attributes of certain bees? (12)

Stair with moving case, reportedly of more re-

17 Gum finds parts of den-tures intolerable (5) 18 Puncture's cause of parking offence, we hear (5)

19 The cloth participates with those in confession 20 Cogent factor reducing trade with craft round American island (12)

24 See moon ultimately wax around the country

25 Edge back, facing awful time in journey (10)
26 Hard joining military elite's framework (4) They're enough to pro-voke the juters (10)

DOWN

Pawn, look, delivering mate (4) Cut east and run (4) Ticker expert has 100 or so (digital) for repair

Dashes, flies around Italy (5) Girl to take up role in celebrated play (9) They're attuned to vari-

ations in pitch? (10) Talk idly about shrines designed for show (10) 11 Musician's clear, is im-

mersed in endless lu-13 Note, daughter likes eating very soft fruits

Actions involving the har? (10) 16 Is it caused by the end-less lifting? (9)21 Dizzy from glare (5)

Whip up old Mexican Jam the communica-

tion, losing time (4) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword. P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SBL. Picase use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: H Ougham, Aberystwyth; M Crufekshank, Glasgow: Il Forrest, West Kirby, J Cooper, London W4; H Bevan, London W11. When 90 minutes lasts the night

night for a football match that means so much. Adam Szreter looks forward anxiously to an experience that will tax friendships and upset domestic life.

Thank God we don't play foothall every Saturday night. How do the Spanish and the French manage it? This week has been bad enough, trying to get the message through to your other half, your non-footballing half, that you just aren't going to be in a normal frame of mind come 7.45 tonight.

1 decided to invite some friends around, but the first one had exactly the same problem. "Well, I'm going to be watching it, but Cath's not really very keen on football," he said.

"Well that's fine," I replied, because neither is Jane. They can, er, go in the kitchen or something, and talk. I'm going to invite a few other people and they won't all be interested in didn't sound too convinced.

nothing formal, a huffet type thing," I said, "and it's not as

though it goes on all evening." You always think it only lasts 90 minutes, you never legislate for pre-match, postmatch, half-time, injury time. At least there won't be extra time and penalties. Shame. One person I won't be invit-

ing is my new friend Paolo. We reached a very earty decision not to watch the match together. It was soon after I'd gone round to see the Manchester United-Juventus game with Paolo and his friend.

It was mostly pretty civilised. I agreed that Brian Moore was oot the most impartial commentator and I was quick to concede that Sheringham had been yards offside when Scholes scored United's second, soon after the balf-time pizza had arrived, t wondered if that was what Italians do when they watch a football match. We drink beer, they cat pizza.

It all went uncomfortably quiet after Deschamps was sent off. No complaints from the football." "Er. yes." He Paolo, just the dawning realisation that the unthinkable

"We can lay on some food, was about to happen and Joventus were going to lose.

Paolo put a call through on-Wednesday, ostensibly to give: me his new address but really to wish me bad luck for Saturday. He said Ian Wright was the one they feared most, and agreed that threatening to arrest Paul Gascoigne as soon as he arrived in Italy was not really in the spirit of things. I wished him good luck in the play-offs.

t rang my friend David in Rome, who will watch the match in the square around the corner from his office, where they've erected a giant screen, and he'd also placed an order with his local flower shop.

After Italy had beaten England at Wembley in February, he arrived at work to find a bunch of chrysanthemums on his desk, the traditional mark of respect at an Italian funeral. "I'm tooking forward to this," he said. "This is my moment."

I hadn't the heart to point out that, when it comes to the crunch, England invariably lose. If only it could be different this time. But please, whatever the outcome, never again on a Saturday night.

#### Fears grow as touts cash in

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• IM

Fears of trouble flaring during England's World Cup decider against Italy tonight grew yesterday when touts were seen openly selling tickets to England fans outside Rome's Olympic Stadium. One party of supporters from Rochdale bought up to 20 tickets asset in 10,000 English fans hegan to gather in the city.

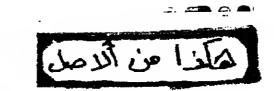
In the middle of Rome a tout with an east London accent was offering English fans "as many tickets as you like" in the sections of the stadium reserved for Italians. Some tickets were being offered for £150, others surprisingly for as little as £20.

There are also concerns that the seating arrangements, with fans from opposing sides close together, could lead to trouble.

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Ye shall drink no wine Jeremiah 35:6 for it is written.



## YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING



Reading the Will by D Wilkie: Time spent choosing competent executors, whether lay or professional, can prevent complications arising when the estate is administered

### Before you go, do your heirs one last favour

Your head won't ache when the time comes to read your will. But you could be leaving a real and potentially costly headache for your heirs if you fail to make your wishes crystal clear, or if you have not bothered to appoint

executors who are competent to administer your estate. Rachel Fosen reports.

You've just died. Your nephew claims you promised that after your death he could keep the prized classic car you kept in his garage. Bot your daughter and son-in-law are oow threatening to take him to court unless he haods back the keys.

Ugly feuds between relatives grappling over inheritances is the stuff of soap operas. In real life, the beneficiaries of a will are rarely unprincipled vultures. Usually they just want to make sure a loved ooe's last wishes are carried out. But complications can arise after you die, so it is important to choose the right persoo as executor of your will.

Deciding just who that should be is not

they're grieving.

The alternative is to appoint a professional – usually a bank or an individual solicitor. But letting these professionals siphon away some of your beneficiaries' inheri-

trustworthiness, bankers say. If you feel your will, it might be easier to appoint a disinterested party as executor, rather than one of the beneficiaries themselves.

"People want the reassurance that things will be managed strictly according to their wishes," says Michael Bird, head of client services at Barclay Trust. Also, a bank can easily be sued if it makes a

But the service is far from free, Banks' charges are based oot on time spent but on the value of the estate, and fees can eat up a sizeable chunk of the moneyyou leave behind. Oo an estate worth £100,000.

the people you care about most with a executor, and add service fees oo top of protracted and complicated task when this depending on how many assets and debts are involved.

The Royal Bank of Scotland would charge £4,000, but says it may vary these fees, charging more for a complex task or less for a simple ooe - particularly where tance in fees hardly seems kind either. the main asset is a house in which a sur-Many of the big names in banking are viving husband or wife will continue to live.

only too willing to act as executors. The You can name a solicitor as your execappeal of appointing a bank to manage your utor. In many cases, rather than claiming affairs is in the institution's impartiality and a percentage of the value of the estate, solicitors acting as executors will charge for your relatives are likely to squabble over the work involved. This makes it harder to gauge exactly how much the fees will be, but with a simple will it could be cheaper.

Julian Korn, partner at City solicitors Beachcroft Stanleys, recently charged £750 plus VAT for acting as executor of a £90,000 estate which had about three assets. If an estate of the same size had been complicated, this could have been as much

as £3,000 to £4,000, he says.
But this is assuming the high hourly rates charged by ceotral London firms. In the country, fees could be half these levels.

"Banks are likely to be less flexible than individuals, and they have charging

easy. The last thing you want is to burdeo Lloyds Bank would charge £3,000 to act as structures which can be oo the heavy side." work to do at a time of grief was oot Mr Korn says.

Apart from the cost, grieving relatives may find banks upsetting to deal with, says Tom Lemon, senior partner at Ealing-based solicitors Prince Evans. "The banks can be very impersonal ... and you doo't get the feeling that they are involved," he says. Having a named solicitor as executor can help. "It's comforting to the individual to be able to sit for 20 minutes and talk about the person who has just died," Mr Lemon says.

But solicitors agree there's ofteo oo real advantage in naming a solicitor as executor. It could be better to appoint a close relative or friend as lay executor, who can in turn enlist a solicitor's services at the time if they feel they can't do it on their own.

This could even be cheaper, as it enables the lay executor to shop around when the time comes, and to do a portion of the work themselves. "A lot of people do find, wheo they are grieving, they don't want to be faced with a constant stream of letters they would rather pass it on to someone else," says Mr Lemon.

But Peter Rodgers, who works in the City, acted as executor of his father's will 18 months ago and found having the extra

unwelcome. "It was rather a useful way of keeping my mind occupied," he says.

He found the task straightforward, and reckons he spent two days in total doing it. "With a simple will where there is a relatively small amount of money and it's to be distributed among a small oumber of people - it's a simple process," he says.

Mr Rodgers said he borrowed a book oo bow to be an executor. The main obstacle was getting the right forms from the probate office at Somerset House, though once he had them, he found they were very good and clear.

When you make a will you have to name between one and four executors. If you appoint two or more, this provides protection if one turns out to be unreliable, as decisions have to be made unanimously.

You should consider the following before naming someone: Is this person honest? Have they agreed to do the job? Are they likely to be around after you die?

Law Society: 0171-242 1222. Prince Evans: 0181-567 3477. Lloyds Bank: 0171-626 1500. BarclayTrust: 0171-403 4833. Beachcroft Stanleys: 0171-242 1011.

#### INSIDE

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### Shopping for best service

NIC CICUTTI

Years ago, when I were has fought back. Legal & "no but a lad", I recall many dire warnings about the likely impact of hig banks and building societies in the marketing of financial services products.

The argument went as follows: These banks have a large client base [that's you and me) that they can sell to. The products will be aimed at the lowest common denominator [you and me again]. which means people won't be as well served with pensions or life assurance, or investments as they might be.

What's happened since? Well, many banks and building societies have launched their own life assurance arms. Some have even come out with competitive products. Of note is Nationwide's personal pension plan, a good-value option for many people.

the most part, the hig battalions have failed to deliver. Some of their products are even less competitive than the life insurers they were meant to supplant, A special mention here for NatWest Life, whose pension products offer such poor value that you would need your head examining just to entertain the thought of taking one out.

What has been far more been the combination of two particular features,

The first has been the arrival of "new" providers, including Direct Line and Virgin, who are delivering highly competitive savings and investment products. Together with Sainshury's and Tesco. they are revolutionising the world of personal finance.

The second has been the

General, Scottish Widows, Eagle Star, Equitable Life and Merchant Investors have decided to take on the - mainly telephone-based - new finan-

However, the majority of the industry has lagged behind. In the short term, this means we are denied the supposed benefits that competition should bring to ordinary savers. In the long run, I can't help but think the hig insurers, hanks and societies are missing something.

experts. Sainsbury's will no doubt follow suit.

go elsewhere.

The answer lies in your

cial services providers. Cheap products, with low, or even no up-front charges, are becoming a norm.

This week saw the launch of Tesco's new financial services centres, set to open at stores throughout the UK within 12 months, Over that time, Tesco plans to roll out But the reality is that, for a whole series of new pension products, mortgages and loans. Customers will be able to carry out financial transactions at these centres and connect, via video link, with

More and more, there appears to be a division between some providers who are determined to be the cheapest and - as a result are sucking in huge volumes interesting in recent years has of business from investors and horrowers. The remainder remain determined to extract as much profits as they can from customers, who they believe are too stupid to

hands. You could begin by demanding to know if these high-charging companies are as competitive as their telephone-based rivals. If not, way a handful of life insurers send them packing.

MONEY MAKEOVER

### Enlist tax rules to retire comfortably

Names: George and Patricia Grimes Ages: 63 and 60

Occupations: Retired lecturer and NHS nurse

The problem: George and Patricia will have combined pension incomes of about £20,700 when they have both retired, enough to cover their current outgoings of around £13,000 a year. They also own their home free of mortgage and have a portfolio of shares and other investments worth about £70,000.

Altogether their net worth is about £220,000, of which about 60 per cent is the value of their property. The total does not include the value of

cars, caravan and other possessions. They would like to see if they can generate more income to supplement their pensions.

The adviser: Frank Klonowski is a graduate in theology who spent 12 years in catering management before becoming a consultant with Legal & General in 1988. Five years later he set up his own financial planning business hased in Leeds, telephone 0113

The advice: If we apply this year's personal allowances and today's tax rates to next year's projected income - when both pensions are payable their net [after tax] income would be £10,568 and £7,752 respectively.

Each has an annual personal allowance, ie the amount of income allowed before tax becomes payable. This is currently £4,045, but in the next tax year George becomes entitled to the "additional age allowance" - which increases his personal allowance to £5,220. He should he entitled



George and Patricia Grimes risk being caught in the age altowance trap Photograph: News

to this for the whole of the next tax year as he attains 65 during the year.

But this additional allowance is ouly available where total income is below a certain level - currently £15,600. For every £2 over this level, he would lose £1 of the extra allowance until he reaches the level of the normal personal allowance - an effective tax rate of 34.5 per cent on this portion of income. This is known as the "age allowance trap".

Great care must therefore be taken when adding extra income to their respective pensions. It is usually more tax efficient to create extra income by investing in tax-free instruments like PEPs and Tessas or encashing the gains on investments, rather than simply

choosing income-producing investments which are taxable.

George and Patricia each have an annual capital gains tax allowance, currently £6.500; this can in effect mean an extra £13,000 a year tax free. Assuming reasonable growth in dividends and capital the maximum

that George and Patricia could take from their portfolio to ensure that they do not run out of money too early would be just under £6,500. They should keep at least £5,000

on deposit to meet immediate needs. After that they should look for taxfree income. Their existing holdings of investment bonds have several advantages. Under present legislation on it is possible to withdraw up to 5

forward to subsequent years. Importantly, this withdrawal facility doesn't at present affect the

per cent of the original invested

amount each year with no immedi-

ate tax liability; this is a cumulative

figure, and may therefore be carried

age allowance. They should split the unit trusts equally between them - this gives more flexibility in using their capital gains tax exemptions. Next, they should utilise their general PEP allowances for the 1997/98 tax year. Patricia already contributes £50 per month to a PEP and has done so since April - this

means a further £5,400 may be paid,

but the choice is limited to the one in

which she now saves. She should sus-

pend her direct debit at the end of March to ensure no payments are made in the next tax year - even one monthly payment would mean only being able to invest in that same PEP.

They could huy more PEPs by exchanging up to £11,400 of their current investments, beginning with the remaining individual shares, then moving on to the two unit trusts.

Next, they should increase their cash hase by putting £3,000 into a Tessa for George and £9,000 into index-linked savings certificates for further tax-free interest. Although this involves leaving them for five years, we have already seen there is sufficient liquidity elsewhere in the, portfolio to cover this period.

George and Patricia also need to consider the possible need to pay for long-term care With full nursing home costs in the provinces estimated at £17,000 a year, the drain on resources may be quite severe.

I understand they have up-to-date "mirror" wills which leave everything to each other, then to their three children. The present inheritance tax liability for their children is £6.680.

George and Patricia may not be able to use their annual exemptions by making gifts to their children, as they will rely on their total portfolio for income. However, they should consider using a Deed of Variation, which enables the terms of a will to be varied within two years of death.

The survivor could then, if necessary, redirect some of the capital to. the children. This would at least use up part of the deceased's mil-rate band which would otherwise be wasted.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/HSBC ASSET MANAGEMENT PEP PLUS

### Can Dublin-based investments boost your portfolio?

by 6 November in exchange for a promise of getting the original investment back after five-and-a-half years, plus a share of growth in large companies in the UK. Far East and

If investors last that long,

The deal: Invest up to £9,000 they will also get a 20 per cent £3,000 can be put into a PEP "loyalty bonus".

Pins points: The product gets around a Revenue rule on what you can invest in under a PEP. Normally, investors can put £6,000 in UK or European securities approved by the Inland Revenue. A further

- but only if it is invested in a single company.

HSBC gets around this by shares. investing in a company listed in Dublin which can further invest the money, spreading the risk between hundreds of companies. The product gives a replaced in April 1999 by an "in- see this sort of Duhlin-based

accept money transferred from other PEPs and from windfall

Drawbacks and risks: No PEPs. They are expected to be a risk the Inland-Revenue may\_down on the product\_

greater level of security and can dividual savings account". But it is not clear whether PEPs will retain tax reliefs or be trans-

ferable into the new accounts. Verdict: Don Clark, managone knows what the Govern- ing director of PEP specialists ment is going to do about Torquil Clark, believes there is or one, if the Revenue cracks

PEP as a cheat and refuse to allow tax-free payouts, although the strategy has been used before. A good product, but it carries an extra risk as a result.

Marks out of five: Three -

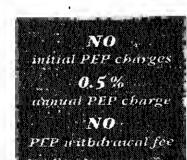
-Andrew Verity

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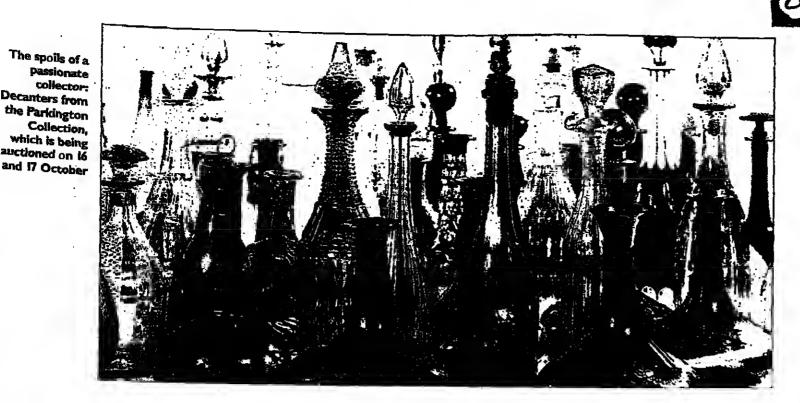
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### 3/PERSONAL FINANCE لمكذا من ألاصل

The spoils of a collector: Decanters from the Parkington Collection, which is being auctioned on 16



### Glass that's a cut above the rest

Michael Parkington was charming, witty, cunning and egotistical according to both friends and rivals. He was also one of the world's foremost glass collectors. As the fruit of his mania goes under the hammer next week, john Windsor previews the auction.

Even if you cannot attend the sale, be sure to buy a catalogue for South Keo's auction of the higgest-ever private collection of British art glass, a comprehensive 525 lots spanning three ceoturies. Complete with post-sale price sheet it will be an invaluable market guide, especially to the largely uncharted later Victorian engraved glass.

Hide it in your pocket when trying to decide whether those perplexing, multicoloured vases and glasses in boot sales and markets are junk or worth hundreds. In fact, South Ken is considering re-issuing the catalogue with prices replacing estimates.

The glass collector Michael Parkington, who died in 1994 aged 71, was a solicitor who developed a passion for British glass while in South Africa defending Nelson Mandela on treason charges in the early Sixties. He was a towering figure, charming, witty and cunning and was an insatiable buyer who paid dealers top prices and in-

timidated glass enthusiasts in the saleroom. The antique dealer Richard Dennis, Parkington's London huying agent, says: "The sale catalogue will be a marker: traders will say: 'Look, it's £600 in Parkingtoo - I'll let you have it for £500,"

It is Parkington's taste for 19th century names such as Varnish and Apskey Pellat and 20th century names such as Monart (including Ysart paperweights), Gray-Stan and Stuart - none of them well known at street level that will be under scrutiny at the auction next Thursday (2pm) and Friday (10.30am).

During his lifetime Parkington singlehandedly pushed np prices for Scottish Monart glass of the Thirties - mostly colourful vases with abstract swirls and un-

them up further. Jane Hay, head of pay £200-£300 for a British Ysart. The 33 watched him bid what she thought were or £500-£700. Watch them take off. crazy prices for Monart in the Eighties.

In the sale. Ms Hay has estimated at only £600-£700 a lot of four miniature ovoid Monart vases, for just one of which he paid £330 six years ago. And she has put a cautious £300-£400 on a Gray-Stan orange oval vase of about 1935 for which he bid £1,430 in 1990. Comeuppance? Come-on, more likely.

Parkington's squirrelled away his trophies in his marisioo flat in Kensington, which Ms Hay describes as "ceiling to floor with glass, glass spilling out of every cupboard, and with narrow, 16 inch pathways between the stacks of glass on the floor". When Parkington discovered Whitefriars glass in 1991, after prompting from Ms Hay, it "spread like a fungus throughout the flat" - he bought about 400 pieces in eight months.

Visitors were expected to put back his Ysart glass paperweights facing the same way, in their original ring of dust. These, with their embedded flowers, butterflies and ' usual textures - and the sale shoold push fish, were another discovery of his. He would

Christic's South Keo's glass department, in the sale are estimated mostly £100-£200

Another potential soaraway - Stevens and Williams "Transparent Cameo" vases of around 1900. They are acid-etched theo hand-cut - the last flourish of old skills applied to new, rather than traditional, designs. The five in the sale are estimated £100-£150 to £200-£300.

Parkingtoo had ao eye for the Victorians' clever industrial processes. See whether hidders share his enthusiasm for the Apsley-Pellat "Crystallo-Ceramie" scent bottle of around 1830 containing a sulphide portrait of Queen Charlotte (£600-£1,000), the Varnish green candlesticks (about 1850) with silver-lined interiors (£400-£500), or the rare Wehh "Alexandrite" specimen vase and tazza of about 1900 that is heat sensitive and changes from pink to turquoise when exposed to electric light (£100-£150).

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611). Catalogues £12, with p&p £12.80.

### INTERNET INVESTOR



### ROBIN AMLOT Home in on the Web

So you are moving. More of us are, or so it would seem from the statistics put forward about the housing market. Moving home is one of the most stressful things you can do. Technology is sup-

posed to make our lives easier. So, can the technology of the Internet and the World Wide Web take some of the stress out of house-hunting and

mortgage-seeking? Maybe. As with most developments on the Internet, a glance at what is happening in the USA shows what is likely to be the way forward, Already, across the Atlantic, around 70 per cent of all residential properties up for sale are listed on the Internet.

We are not there yet. But, if you are moving some distance, the Web may be a good place to start looking before you start driving round estate agents. Even if you are intending to stay within a few miles of where you already live, it is worth checking out. It may save some petrol and footslogging.

So what's available online? The Guild of Professional Estate Agents has a site called property-platform which allows you to search by region and then by town. It then displays pages similar to those in property magazines, with photographs and hrief descriptions of the properties. However, there is no de-

tailed property search facility on the site. Internet Property Finder includes most of the upmarket national agencies such as Knight Frank and Savills but carries only a limited selection of properties.

Woolwich Property Services was the first large estate agency chain to put properties on the Net. However, the Woolwich's Property Seeker again only has a selection, rather than the full range on the Woolwich's books.

Only just over a month ago, the National Association of Estate Agents launched PropertyLive. It currently has details on just over 1,000 properties but aims to carry information on 50,000 within the year. In addition, it has ambitions to link up to government databases allowing you to check outschools, hospitals and other local amenities.

There are a number of other web-. sites which have only a few hundred properties at best. Most of the sites on the Net allow you to search their databases by several criteria: type of property (house, bungalow, flat, etc), number of bedrooms, price range and location.

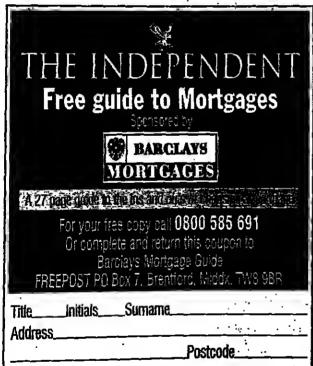
If you are looking for a property right now, you may strike it lucky and find the home of your dreams on the Weh but, in all likelihood, giveo the limited nature of what is available at present, you probably won't. What you will get though, is an idea of what sort of house you can expect to get in the location you are looking for and for the price you can afford.

A few years into the future and the Weh is likely to be the first place everybody will look for a oew home, and it won't just be a case of reading how many "beds", "receps" and "bthrms". You should, quite soon, be able to take a virtual tours of properties. It won't be a computer simulation or a collection of photographs - at least one site already offers this facility - bot a digital video walk-through.

**Woolwich Property Services:** www.wps-property-seeker.co.uk Guild of Professional Estate Agents: www.property-platform.com Internet Property Finder:

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getting the right mortgage. There are several ways of paying it off, some of which may be unsuitable for your longterm needs. Are you confident of being able to make the right decision between endowments, PEPs, pension mort- are self-employed or a contract gages and straightfoward repayments? If flexibility is key, endowments may oot always be suitable. Alternatively, if your retirement income is likely to be small, you may oot

Buying a home is probably the your pension to pay off the

mitmeot most people will in-cur throughout their lifetime. has published a Guide to Monere is also a wide choice of guges available free to all its readers. The Guide, written by Nic Cicutti, this paper's persoval finance editor, takes you through the different types of loans available from lenders.

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#### BARGAIN BASEMENT

Birmingham Midshires is launching a new equity linked tracker bond which pays no income but guarantees a return of 20 per cent after five-and-a-half years should the top 100 share index falls in that time. If the index rises, so do returns, up to a maximum of 100 per cent. Minimum investment is £5,000. Call 0645 720721.

Flemings Investment Trust Management is offering to accept Northern Rock shares in a Fleming PEP without charge until April 1999 and to sell them free of charge before then. After then the annual charge will be £10 a year regardless of the size of the holding. Investors must not already hold another PEP, and must place at least £1,000 into the PEP. The deadline is 4 November, Call 0500 500161.

GE Financial Assurance is offering a five-and-a-half year Safeguard Bood, paying 8 per cent annual net income or up 50 per ceot growth net. Minimum investment is £5,000. Call 0181-380 3388.

2.203 29.63 25.9% 194% A - Minimum are 22 yrs. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's ede

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BEST SAVINGS RATES . 421% We 52% £1 6.50% Year Postal 52,500 7.05% New 30 Day (7) £10,000 '7.20% Year 40 Day (P) £5,000 7.30% 40 Day (P) £5,000 7.30% Year 50 Day (P) £5,000 7.35% Year 60 Day(P) \$10,000 52,500 - 6.20% - Minut £10,000 5.30% "£10,000 5,50% " £10,000 B 43% 25,009 7,00% F Metons 6 Modin £1,000 7.25% F Maturity £10,000 7.30%F 5 Year ... \$2,000 7.65% ... Year 59,000 7.80% Year \$7,500 775% 1 Year \$10,000 5.58% FM Year £10.000 6 40% FN Yest £3,000 5,35% FN Year £10,000, 6,80% Vear £25,000 7.00% £10,000 755% £10,000 5 80% \$25,000 5.75% \$2,000 £25,000 6.75% Month \$20,000 6.50% F Year \$500 700% F Month CC 5 6.75% F Maturity Childrens Bond Issue H (lax Iree) B - Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System

### Looking for the gold fields of eastern Europe

Investors are always looking for the new frontier, where gold nuggets lie around waiting to be picked up by the adventurous and far-sighted while their duller brethren struggle to make a living in markets which have been well-worked over.

The current search for Eldorado has switched to Russia and eastern Europe, reports Clifford

Not so long ago it was Latin America that offered geoerous returns for risk-tolerant investors. Then the Mexican market collapsed. Last year the spotlight switched to Eastern Asia and the talk was all of new tigers like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippioes forcing their put is recovering.

way on to world markets with cheap hi-tech goods. That too ended in tears. But hope springs eternal and investors are now asking if Russia and eastern Europe will generate maximum returns for minimum risk.

Communism had many faults but it did at least ensure that Russia, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic have literate, skilled and urban tabour forces, and while Russia has massive natural resources the eastern European countries have the promise of early entry to the European Community.

The transition to capitalism has been fairly bairy, with high inflation, rising ucemployment and falling output, unpaid wages, piecemeal privatisations and uncertainty over who has legal little to many assets. Things are still quite chaotic hut some sort of order does seem to he emerging. Inflation is coming down, public sector deficits are coming under control and out-

tiny in relation to the annual output of the economies and dear in relation to company profits, they are cheap relative

But not everything is simple or easy. While the Moscow and Budapest markets have been soaring in the past year, average market prices in Warsaw, Prague and Bratislava are exactly where they were three years ago. Setbacks can be sudden, sharp and out of all proportioo to the fundamentals. Something quite minor and apparently irrelevant can trigger

heavy setling. Political, social, legal and ecooomic risks are far greater thao at home. There is a large criminal element among the nouveaux riches e otrepreneurs especially in Russia, who think nothing of using fraud and extortioo rather thao technological and managerial expertise.

Buying shares in individual

Stock market values are still companies is a mug's game, but the first trust accessible to small even rhough most markets are by Save & Prosper. The minimum investment is £2,000 or £35 a month. It will invest initially in to the assets which back them. up to seven separate markets across the region with a maxi-

mum of 30 per cent in Russia." Even Save & Prosper recommends it should be only 5 per cent of your investment portfolio. The nominal dividend yield on the initial portfolio will be a derisory 0.4 per cent, and charges are not cheap.

At any one time you would have to pay 5.5 per cent more to huy units than the price you would get for reselling, and there is an annual charge of 1.5 per cent a year plus expenses, initially a touch over 0.25 per ceot. But there is always the hope that these markets will come good in a hig way, and rewards as well as charges will he substantially greater, far greater, than the more sedate western markets could deliver.

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£50,000-£99,999	7.7696	7.49%
£25,000-£49,999	7.60%	7 40%
£10,000-£24,999	7.55%	73196
£5,000-£9,999	6.05%	5.93%

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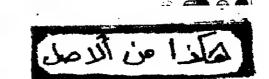
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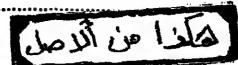
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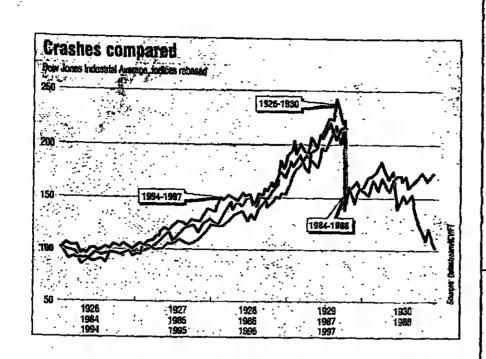






THE JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

### When the Dow peak?



One week to go to the 10th anniversary of the stock market crash of 1987, and even the chairman of the Federal Reserve seems determined not to let the anniversary pass without reminding us once more - and with justice - of the limits of rationality in the stock market.

Ten months ago Alan Greenspan caused a nasty bout of jitters in the markets by warning investors of the dangers of "irrational exuberance". Whatever his inteotions, the warning has done little since to stop the market in its tracks. The Dow Jones index is up 25.5 per cent so far this year, after 26 per cent last year.

For much of this year the world's most powerful central banker has seemed oo occasions to be flirting instead with the market bulls, debating out loud whether there is any evidence to support the view that something ocw and profound - a-"paradigm shift", in the current market parlance - has taken place in the US economy to justify keeping share prices so high.

Has the rapid spread of microchip technology over the last few years made the business cycle redundant? After six years of expansion in the US economy, some would like to think so. Has there been an unprecedented step change in the productivity of American husiness? There is not much evidence of it in the standard numbers, but something must explain why unemployment continues to fall so sharply without yet rekindling inflation. Or is it simply that the great inflation bogey of the post-war years has been slain once and for all?

Ξ

That would certainly help to explain why long-term interest rates, which ultimately drive share price values, continue to fall, and why markets continue to take such a benign view of the future.

Look, for example at the prices of the index-linked bonds which the US government has started to sell to investors for the first time this year. According to BZW, the break-even inflation rate on the latest issue is a little over 3 per cent: in other words, the inflation guarantee that the bonds provide relative to conventional bonds will prove redundant only if avcrage inflation remains below that figure over the next five years. Such calculations years ago, so rapidly have inflation expectations changed.

Yet, testifying this week to the House of Representatives Budget Committee. Mr Greenspan wisely reverted to his previous stance, observing that: "Financial markets seem to have priced in an optimistic outlook, characterised by a significant reduction in risk and an increasingly benevolent inflation process."

He added that it was "unrealistic" for investors to expect a repeat performance of the dramatic surge in Wall Street which has been over the past two years. His argument was that demand for labour is growing so fast at a time when unemployment is already so low that the point when either economic growth or inflation has to give cannot be far away.

Either way it must eventually rebound into lower share price valuations. That does not mean there has to be another crash to allow the markets' rosy view of the world to come back into line with underlying economic reality. A sudden 20-25 per cent fall in share prices, like 10 years ago, is just one option: it could be, and with any luck will be, a far more gradual process. But it may do oo harm to prepare yourself for such an event. The prudent, I would suggest, should already be mentally knocking around 20 per cent outcome that none of them desires. The of the value of their shareholdings to get a fairer feeling for their worth.

It may be no accident that Goldman Sachs, probably the most powerful of all the American investment banks, has been circulating a graph which shows how uncannily the market's performance over the last three years has tracked that of the market in both 1926-29 (the three downward spiral. years which preceded the 1929 market crash) and 1984-87 (the three years running up to the crash of 10 years ago). The Financial Times carried a similar graph earlier this week, and neatly sum- . No computer system can begin to model marised the main economic reasons why the hull market has now run ahead of all realistic expectations of what the economy, on which the stock market's value

ultimately depends, can deliver. The main question investors face is what they can, or need to, do about it all. Sell all your shares in the hope of buying them back later more cheaply? No, that would be a quite exaggerated response. As I have said before, the markets may well go higher before they do eventually correct: irrationality by definition

would have seemed outlandish even five is unbounded, and history suggests that smart investors make their money by riding the bull waves when they happen, and not trying to second-guess the turning points. The corollary is: don't panie when the setbacks happen,

Better is to keep a sense of proportion. In retrospect, the 1987 crash, unlike its counterpart in 1929, was something of a red herring. The market, having overreached itself, simply resumed its long upward trend from a new and more realistic base. There was no underlying change in economic circumstances to justify a permanent change in market valuations, as there was in both 1929 and 1974.

With luck we are in the same boat now as we were in 1984, rather than in the other cases. What we do understand now a lot hetter than we did before is how market crashes occur. Reflecting on the lessons of the Sooth Sea Bubble in the early 18th century, Sir Isaac Newton said: "I can calculate the motions of the heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people,"

Modern social science has allowed us a greater insight into the irrationality of collective behaviour. We now understand what is called the fallacy of composition: how a collection of individuals, each acting rationally by their own lights, can nevertheless, collectively, produce an standard example is a fire in a cinema: if everyone tries to be first to reach the exit at the same time the result can be catastrophic. This is very much what seemed to happen in 1987, when computer-driven portfolio insurance programmes encouraged an ordinary market downturn to develop into a self-feeding

Mr Greenspan knows well that the world's stock markets are large and dynamic networks driven each day by millions of independent individual decisions. what the collective effect of these individual decisions is likely to be: the process is iterative rather than linear.

The truth is that financial markets are inherently volatile and unstable. That is why we will go on having market booms and crashes - and why reason can only ever take you part of the way towards formulating a coherent investment strategy. The final paradox may be that the more people accept that cycles of overvaluation and crash are inevitable (as in 1987), the less likely they in fact become.

### MUTUALS PAY OUT

### Windfall bonanza from Down Under

holders are still wondering what to do with their windfalls, a new bonanza is opening up for holders of policies with mutual insurance companies.

Next week 1.1 million Scottish Amicable members will get almost £1,000 from the Prudential's successful bid for the company in February. About £550 will be cash and the balance will be added to policies.

In mid-lanuary an estimated 171,000 holders of policies with London Life and Australian Mutual Provident will get an average of £3,000 in free

voting in next mooth's special meeting back the society's conversion into a limited company.

Policyholders will receive a voting form to send back by 18 November. If the vote is carried, eligible policyholders, which means those with current policies on 11 December last year and 10 September this year, will receive a minimum 100 shares.

money they have contributed and the length of time the policy has been running. AMP's advisers believe the

equivalent of 470p each if they were trading now, so the minimum windfall will be £470. The maximum could reach £8,000.

ern Rock shareholders who

took the money was 43 per cent.

The low cost

high income PEP

0.5%

0.7%

0.7%

1.25%

The shares will begin trading on the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges around the middle of next year. One important detail is still missing. There are no plans to have them quoted in London, and no proposals to set up a They will also get extra dealing service for UK investors shares based on the amount of who would prefer cash. Last month the proportion of North-

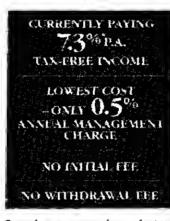
While Northern Rock shares if 75 per cent of members shares would be worth the A similar proportion of AMP shareholders might prefer cash upfront. AMP may have to buy back up to half its UK members' shares at a cost of £250m, or seek a Londno listing.

AMP wants to expand in the UK and sees a share quote as a way of funding acquisitions through a share offer or a rights issue. One can huy and sell Australian and New Zealand shares priced in local dollars here in the UK but the shares would be more marketable here if they were actually listed in London and priced in pounds sterling. - Clifford German

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### Share in an instant portfolio

companies reduces the risks associated with buying shares, for those that do well with one hopes, make up for those that do not. However, it is important to remember that it does not eliminate the risk. If the stock market generally falls so does the value of a portfolio.

Because of minimum charges for huying and selling. small individual shareholdings are not an economic proposition. The minimum investment should ideally be £2,000. However, there is a way of securing an instant portiolio: a unii trust.

The concept is simple. Investors funds are pooled and divided into a number of units, each investor receiving a number of naits in proportion to their investment. Typically, an equity-based trust will invest in the shares of 50 to 100 companies with no single holding exceeding 10 per cent of the fund.

Professional investment managers decide which shares to sell and which to add to the shareholding, with the aim of achieving the trust's objective. This may be to maximise income, the growth in value of the units, or a combination of the two. The investments are held in the name of an independent trustee thence the name unit trust t who is responsible for ensuring there is no foul play.

Unit trust managers generally cover their expenses and make their profits in two ways. The "initial charge" is added to the price at which investors buy units from the unit trust managers. There is atso an annual management charge, up to 1.5 per cent of the total value.

There are over 1.500 unit trusts in the UK. They are divided into a number of categories according to their aims and the geographic area in which the funds are invested. For example, there are trusts which just invest in the UK with a view to achieving growth, income or a com- .A pack on unit trust investment bination of the two aims. Others invest internationally. Some trusts are far riskler than others.

For this reason, first-time investors should only con-

Investing in a broad range of sider more general unit trusts such as "balanced" or "managed" funds which invest in bonds and cash as well as shares. Alternatively, consideration should be given to "tracker" funds which invest in the 100 largest companies in the UK.

As Anne McMeehan of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) states: "Unit trusts are absolutely ideal for the novice investor." However. do remember that not all unit trusts perform the same. Past performance tables are found in Money Management and What Investment?, available monthly from the larger newsagents.

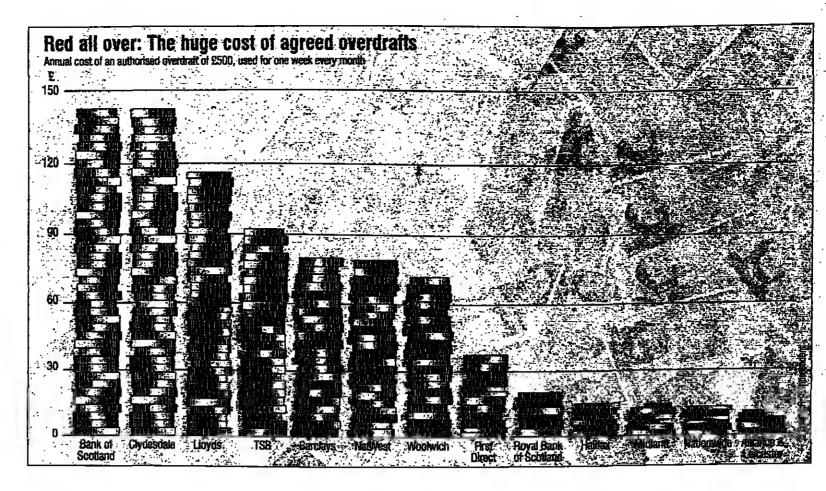
The tables show how much an initial investment of £1,000, made at different periods in the past, is worth today if its net income has been reinvested. Ideally pick a fund which shows a consistent performance over all periods - and the longer the better. Do not pay too much attention to those which have done well in the past year as this may be a fluke.

Also, do not he influenced by the excellent performance of a trust in a different category to the one at which you were originally looking, as it could be a riskier investment and not meet your requirements. Never forget that past performance is no guarantee of the future.

The previous day's huying and selling prices, as well as vields - which is the prc-tax income expressed as a percentage of the previous day's buying price - are published in The Independent. Most trusts have a minimum investment of £500 or £1,000. It is often possible to invest a regular sum each month. Payments start from £30 to £50. Spreading the acquisition in this way is an excellent way of making a first step into the stock market.

--- John Andrew

is available from Autif. It includes the 'User's Handbook', giving guidance on how invesiors should select a trust and also contains a glossary of terms. Call 0181-207 1361.



### Overdraft battle on the high street

Once upon a time, you simply accepted that the price of going overdrawn, even if by agreement, would be a whopping rate of interest plus an additional monthly fee of anything up to £10.

Today, that picture is changing. But some customers will pay a heavier price, as Andrew Verity reports.

"Royal Bank of Scotland unleashes guerrilla assault on 'harbingers of doom' - shock." Though the headlines were not quite as dramatic as the one above, the bank's recent initiative on overdrafts marks a new stage in the battle for

The attack on so-called "harbingers of doom" was aimed at senior hankers from Clydesdale Bank, RBS's local rivals, whose own soothsayers are forecasting the demise of free banking within the next few years.

Royal Bank disagrees. Instead of accepting defeat on this front, it has taken its fight for free banking into territory dear to the hearts of students, loss-making small businessmen and recent divorcees: overdraft fees.

the chance to slip comfortably into overdraft with no arrangement fee or monthly service charge -just a relatively reasonable rate of interest. 1.25 per cent a month.

monthly fee - usually between £5 and £8 - still levied hy most big banks on customers who go overdrawn, even when by agreement.

Pressing home the assault, the bank noted that for an authorised overdraft of £500 which is used

for one week every month, Lloyds Bank will take £116 from its customer, Barclays charges £80 and NatWest charges £79. Bank of Scotland believes it deserves a grand £142 for the service.

Royal Bank of Scotland will take a mere £20.71 - only beaten by Midland with £15.

Andy Marchant, head of current accounts at RBS, says: "Those who have forecast the end of free banking have completely misread the situation. Increased competition within the industry means that customers are receiving an even better deal.

"Most of our customers operate their current account within an agreed overdraft limit. We are recognising those customers who conduct their current account in a responsible manner and they will greatly benefit from our new policy."

Royal Bank's move runs against the grain of a convention in hanking which is captured in the saying, "Owe a banker £5 and you are at his mercy: owe him £500m and he is at yours."

Traditionally, hanks do not mind losing customers with piffling, unprofitable debts: if those customers stay, the interest paid may not cover the cost of servicing the overdraft. So they charge high rates of interest and levy fees for the administration work of confirming the over-

cent divorcees: overdraft fees. Even in Royal Bank's case, this approach has From I December, all account holders have not been entirely abandoned. It has financed part of its cost-cutting by boosting fees for unauthorised overdrafts. These have charges which sound more familian fees of £15 a month. Interest is nearly double that of an authorised overdraft The biggest change lies in the scraping of a at 2.45 per cent, or a whopping 29.4 per cent APR u year. Nat West will hit savers with a £50 initial fee, interest at 33.8 per cent APR and a frightening daily fee of £3.50.

> Other banks penalise unauthorised overdrafts in similar fashion. The reasoning behind the high

charges is that banks regard unauthorised overdrafts as an irritation.

They present a greater risk to the bank because they can no longer have confidence that their customers will not draw more than a prengreed amount. So every single transaction has to be monitored. Instead of a note on a computer file, the bank has to waste staff time in monitoring the accounts.

Lesson: get it authorised. If a similar overdraft has been arranged before, a simple teleshone call will usually suffice.

Banks with high charges for authorised overdrafts have mounted something of a defence to the guerrilla tactics of Royal Bank and Midland. They point to what has become known as the 'pink" or "buffer" zone, an automatic overdraft, usually of £100, which does not need to be authorised and involves no fees.

A spokeswoman for Lloyds TSB adds: Charges and interest relating to overdrafts do not affect most customers as 70 per cent never

Overdrafts are a flexible form of horrowing which allow customers to dip in and out. The charges should be seen in the context of overall packages which include free in-credit banking and access to thousands of branches and ATMs across the country."

Here, Royal Bank is again injecting fresh competition into retail banking. Last week, it became the first traditional bank to offer its customers access to any of the 22,000 cash machines across the UK - free of charge.

So what lies behind this sudden burst of com-

petitive fervour? The answer lies in a fresh injection of energy to the banking sector - and a mushrooming number of new companies. Just when you thought the banking sector had been reduced

to four - Lloyds TSB, Midland, NatWest and Barclays - new players are rushing in.

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Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Abbey National, Northern Rock and others have entered the sector. Fresh from making themselves popular by converting billions of pounds of members' funds into cash handouts, they mean business. One in four current accounts are now held not with the traditional providers.

Instead monthly wages go into the former building societies or Midland's telephone banking arm. Even those which have stayed as mutual huilding societies, such as Nationwide, are fighting for the same business.

A quick look at the overdraft fees of the new hanks casts a fresh light on Royal Bank's initiatives: it only looks cheap next to some of its traditional rivals. For an overdraft of £500 one week a month for a year, the same example as above, Halifax will charge just £15.47. Ahbey National only wants £12.95. Alliance & Leicester has whittled it down to the cheapest rate of all £10.96 (see table above).

But even the new hanks will not take kindly to customers who bust their limits. If a customer incurred a £500 unauthorised overdraft for one week a month, Halifax would hit him or her for £222.10 over the year.

The traditional banks are trying to fight back without further painful cost-cutting by offering enhanced service. Rather than slashing overdraft fees, Barclays prefers to do something which it points out could benefit all customers. It is piloting a new type of quarterly hank statement, tailored to each individual customer, to show all of their financial arrangements - mortgages, life assurance, pensions and credit cards - at a glance. So long as these arrangements are laid on by Barclays, of course. The hig four high-street banks are determined, it seems, to fight back.



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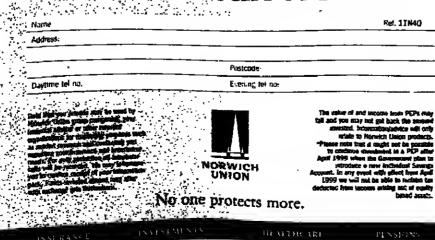
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#### Pension policies for women

Government to set up a permanent telephone helpline providing advice for women on pensions after its own helpline was swamped by more than

100.000 calls in its first week. The line was kept open for a second week hut only about

The TUC is calling on the 2,000 calls a week could be dealt

For the TUC's factsheets. send a large stamped addressed envelope to: TUC Women and Pensions Factsheets, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.

-Clifford Germon

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS

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### So you want to be a venture capitalist

The best-performing venture capital nvestment trust over the past five years is managed by Foreign & Colonial. So, as it happens, is the worst. Confused? Paul Slade has the answers.

If you had put £1,000 intn F&C's Enterprise Trust at the end of August 1992, that money would now be worth £5,295. If nn the nther hand, you had plumped for the same sector's East German trust - also managed by F&C - your £1,000 would now be worth just £180.

In fact, F&C took over the collapsing trust from German fund managers Ermagassen Sonly earlier this year and is currently running it "for realisation". In other words, F&C has the thankless task of trying to extract what little cash remains for shareholders hefore winding up the trust altngether.

But these twin examples neatly sum up the two extremes of venture capital investment. Get it right, and the rewards are high - the top UK general investment trust's equivalent return was just £3,311. But get it that I wanted to invest I might wrnig, and the results are disastrous.

F&C Ventures managing director James Nelson, whn manages the Enterprise trust, wys: "It's n different form of risk. We manage a more concentrated partfalia, so you haven't got as much diversification. But the nther side of the coin is that we're investing in companies where we have direct contact with the managers and continuing munitoring throughout."

The Enterprise trust invests in about 60 companies, with its largest 10 stakes accounting fur about 60 per cent uf funds

under management. attached to venture capital established nr conventinual evestment led the last governent to create a string of something a little bit extra on investment vehicles designed to

UK general investment trusts

Liercury Keystone £3,275

£1,000 invested, net income re-linves

nce over five years to August 2

F&C Enterprise

Top Three

**Finsbury Trust** 

Finsbury Growth

Venture and development capital investment trusts

£3,550

£3,326

£3,311

£2,912

give tax breaks on money going into risky start-ups or expanding companies. The most recent of these schemes, created in 1993, is the venture capital

But VCTs, like Business Expansion Schemes before them. were soon hedged round with all sorts of guarantees and clever financial gimmicks which meant well-off investors could get all the tax breaks at little or nn risk. In his own first Budget, on 2 July, Gordon Brown announced that a crackdown nn the schemes would take effect immediately, even thrugh the new rules themselves will not be annunced until next spring.

David Oliver, a tax partner at accountants Arthur Andersen, says: "We know that there are new rules coming in, and we know that we're in them already. We just don't know what they are.

Until the details emerge, Oliver's advice is to consider only those VCTs which have no outside underwriting nr any form of guarantee. "It's gnt tn be genuine risk capital money and, therefore, mnney which people can afford to lose," he says. "VCIs are really for the serious investor who has got significant assets. If I had £200,000 put, say, 10 per cent into a VCT If £20,000 was all I had, I wouldn't put it in this sort of thing."

Other forms of venture capital investment, however, may be suitable for a small part of even the most modest investor's portfolio. In Nelson's own fund which has a savings scheme. starting at £25 a month - small investors now account for about 20 per cent of funds, against just 5 per cent two or three years.

Nelson says: "I think some people have got to the stage in assembling their portfolio, whether it's through PEPs or munthly savings schemes, where they've got all the more the edge.

Mercury Grosvenor

Edinburgh LK Tracker

Radiotrust

East German

£2,089

£1,903

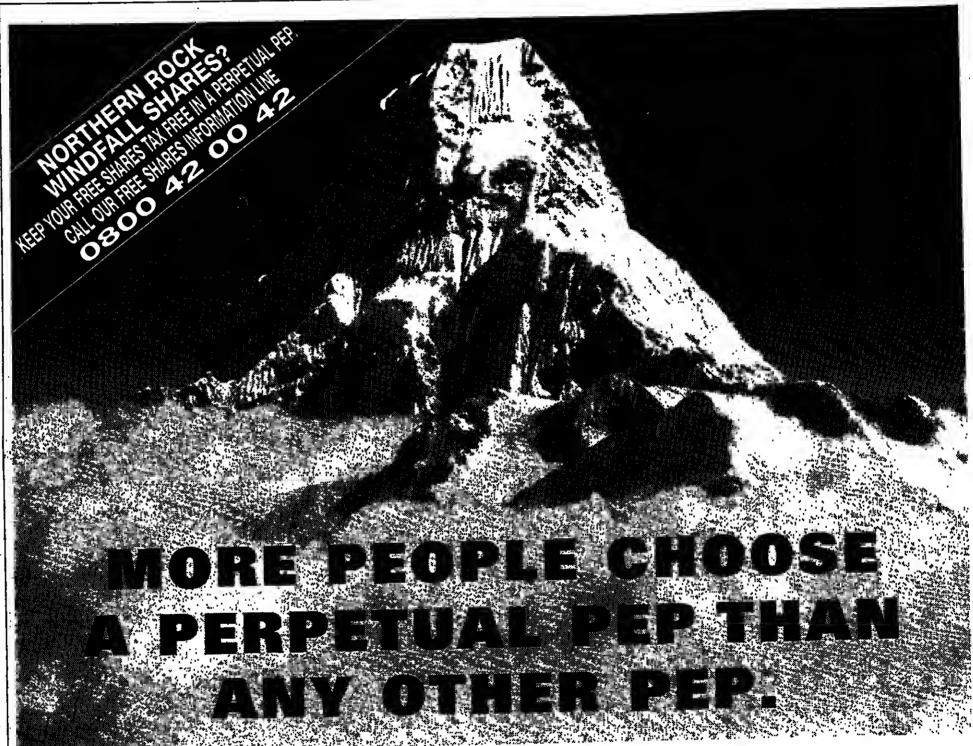
£180

£2,308

£2,179



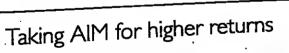
Coronation Street's Matthew Marsden won the best newcomer award this week. Sanctuary Music Productions (see below), whose parent company won the backing of a renture capital trust, hopes to launch him next on a career as a singer. Photograph: Granada



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The whole point of venture capital investment is to benefit from the fast growth of the fledgling companies which may become tomorrow's giants.

One company whose growth has been made possible by just such investment is Sanctuary Music Productions, home nf acts like Love City Groove and Alexander O'Neal. SMP forms joint-venture record labels with talent scouts in a variety of pop music genres. The talent scouts find the acts, and SMP ioes the rest.

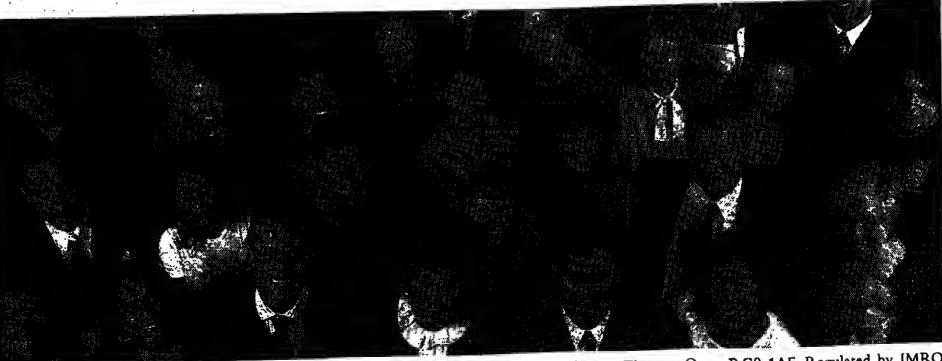
The company took a listing on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) earlier this year, following its parent group successfully raising cash through a VCT AIM is a market which allows smaller companies to raise funds from investors with fewer of the formal obstacles presented by a full Stock Exchange listing. Like other forms of venture capital investment, AIM's potentially higher returns come only at the

SMP's major sharehulder is its parent group, which owns cost of higher risk. 60 per cent of the company. Institutions such as Invesco and Framlington also have a holding. Individual small investors

own somewhere between 10 per cent and 15 per cent. Sanctuary Group finance director Mike Miller says: "There are some wealthy individuals involved who we've met along the way. But there are also some private punters who came in, presumably because it's something a bit more interest-

ing than a widget manufacturer." The company's share price on AIM stood at 65.5p on launch, peaked at 75.5p and has since been hovering in the 67.5p tn 70p range for the past couple of months. "We're

Many small companies unit or investment trusts include slowly building," says Miller. a few AIM shares. The SMP shares held by Framlington, for example, form part of the company's Framlington 1,000 Smallest Companies investment trust, which shows growth of 952 per cent over the past five years, placing it at number 19 in a sector of 43 trusts.

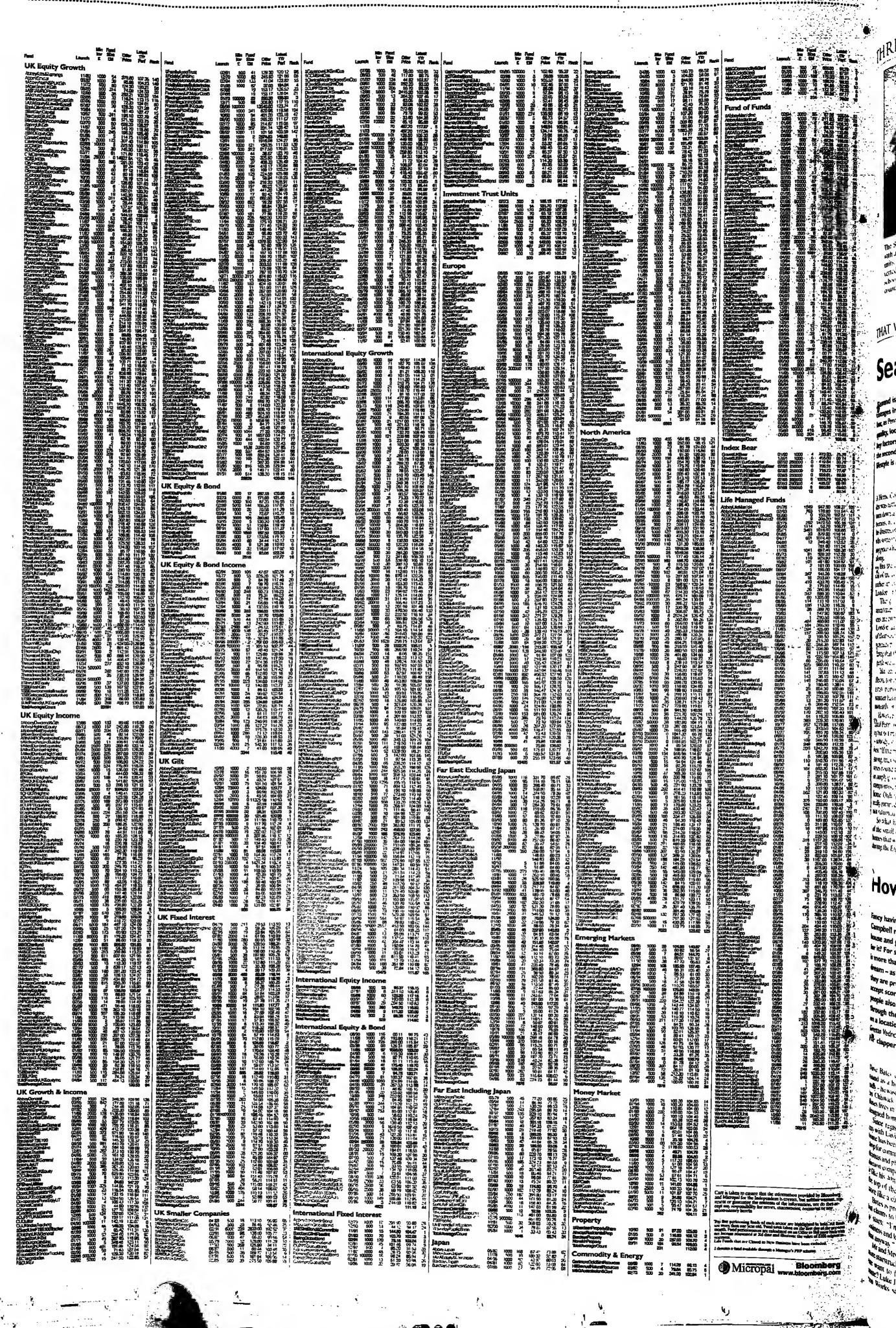


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### 8/UNIT TRUSTS







The School House at Addington, Buckinghamshire has a 12ft 6ins kitcheo with a one-and-a-half bowl white Shires sink, with mixer tap and limed oak units. There's a Bosch hob and Smeg double oven. The five-bedroom converted school house has a double beight 33ft drawing room with the original school bell tower above. There is half an acre of gardens backing oo to opeo countryside. Knight Frank is asking £400,000 (01865 790077).



Pont-y-Mwnywr Cottages at Llanferres, Denbighshire is a pair of cottages - one with two bedrooms, one with three, on the banks of the River Alyn 18 miles from Chester. The kitchens in both have Burler-style sinks with ash wood drainers to each side. The first cottage also has a cream oil-fired Aga and, in the drawing room, a wood-burning stove. Cottage two has a wood-panelled drawing room. Outside, there is a sunken terraced rose garden. Price for the pair is £225,000 says Strutt & Parker (01244 320747).



Smithy Cortage oear Blandford Forum in Dorset has a 13ft kitchen fitted with wooden-fronted units, double-bowl stainless steel sink unit and built-in bob, fridge and double oven. There is a water softener for drinking water, wine store and walk-in larder. The thatched four-bedroom house has a wood burning stove in the sitting room, an office/studio and triple garage. For sale through GA Town & Country for £235,000 (01258 453711).

### THAT WAS THEN. THIS IS NOW

### Searching for a little place in the country? Good luck

emand is once again high for cottages in the Home Counties but, as Penny Jackson discovers, quality, location and amenities are key factors in successful sales, and the second-home/commuting lifestyle is not to everyone's taste

A Home Counties estate ageot the other day was lameoting the fact that he had to turn down a cash hoyer for his own house because he could find oothing he liked. In his frustration, he said, he could understand why someooe would pay well over the asking price wheo the right house finally came

But these inflated prices are oot typical of the country market as a whole but rather an extension of the demand from Loodoo for period family homes.

They go for high prices because there aren't many of them and the competing buyers are probably using the proceeds of a Loodoo sale or can eveo afford to buy out of their salaries. If you are selling a Georgian rectory you could be excused from believing that there's a property boom. Other people see a rather more cautious market.

Take an area like the South Hams in Devoo, for instance. Normally October is a busy period as people return after the summer having decided to move there permanently or to buy a secood home.

However, Madeline Marchand of Marc-1 and Petit, is seeing a great deal of activify but out many deals. The story is familiar - nobody, it seems, wants to take secood best. "If the market were really buoyant and strong, they would," she says. "Whether it's roses round the door, a lovely apartment, or simply good parking, virtually no one will compromise whether it is a second or main home. Only the waterside properties have really jumped ahead. Geoerally Devon has not returned to its Eighties peak."

So what has happened to the fortunes of the small country cottage, the second homes that were snapped up like trophies during the Eighties? In the Cotswolds, tra-



Mary Humphries' cottage in Kingston Lisle, Oxfordshire: she and her family are finally packing up after II years

Photograph: John Lawrence

home-owner, Diane Mearns of Hamptons International, sees £100,000 to £150,000 as rather speed more on their main house." still the maximum most want to pay.

"If people pay a lot for a second home, you usually find they spend a great deal more time there than just weekends and they may only have a flat in Loodoo," she

they were oo second homes and would

Sue Bond bought her 18th-century weaver's cottage in Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire when she was single. Now, 10 years on and with two children she is selling.

"You have to be regimented if you are but he oever came up with the money."

ditionally prime territory for the second says. "Families are oot as keen, though, as to get the most out of the weekeod, but it was always worth it. A local girl looked after my horse which she would hand to me as I gave her the baby." Her cottage, on the market with Hamptons for £125,000, ear-

lier became the target of a fantasy buyer. "Surveys were done, time dragged on,

panies can look at. Edgington

negotiates fees, including one

for the borough, and draws up

the contract between the com-

lerested in having their homes

used for locations to ring before

sending in photos. When an

agency accepts photos of your

home, details go oo to a data-

base for production compa-

nies to choose from. It's free to

register but agencies charge be-

Most agencies ask people in-

pany and the resident.

Every summer estate ageots are inundated with holiday-makers who say they want manent bolthole. Many fall by the wayside, but those who remain enamoured with

the idea could do worse than buy oow. John D Wood's Newbury office finds commutability at the top of a huyer's wish John D Wood, Newbury office at a guide price list. They know exactly where they of £130,000.

"Second home owners often use a small cottage as a toy for five years to test the water. They theo might be somewhere larger or move into the country permaoeotly. But they are very specific - quiet lanes, a pub, preferably a free house with deceot food, and a small store."

Indeed, a two-bedroom thatched cottage with a small kitchen and inglenook fireplace is a romantic retreat until babies have to be accommodated. Mary Humphries and her husband have bad their listed cottage in Kingstoo Lisle, Oxfordshire for 11 years, but oow can't face the upheaval at weekends. "We tend to be more homebased these days. We will miss the walks and the village life but there does come a time with children wheo packing up the car oo a Priday becomes more fraught eveo though it's an easy journey."

Perhaps the area that has seen the sharpest recovery in demand for cottages is Norfolk, specifically along the north coast. It has long been regarded as good value for money and since Loodoo prices have shot op, so has the competition hotted up for the limited supply of traditional brick and flint cottages.

Michael Bedford, from the Burnham Market office of Bedfords, has an unprecedented nil supply on his books. "The last small cottage we had for sale had three people fighting over it. We have seen some crazy prices. A cottage on the market for £95,000 went well over the asking price in the eod. People will wait for years for the right kind of cottage in a good location."

Generally, though, cottages which have risen in price by a modest 8 to 10 per cent in the last year have ool kept pace with the increases of country houses of at least 20 per cent. Estate agents witnessing the inflated prices paid for family homes believe the potential of cottages with land are being overlooked. "If I were moving to the country that is exactly where I would be buying oow," says Nick Hole-Jones.

Mary Humphries' cottage is for sale through

owners fully.

### How to make fame come knocking at your (exquisite Georgian) door

Fancy having Naomi Campbell round your house and getting paid for it? For some, this is more than just a dream - as long as they are prepared to accept scores of other people also trailing through their homes on a location shoot. Ginetta Vedrickas takes out r clapperboard

Dave Bates did have Naomi round as a house guest but sadly - he wasn't the attractioo: his Chiswick house was. For Bates lives in a Norman Shaw designed home built in 1878.

Since registering his property with Lavish Locations his home has been used as a backdrop for commercials, television dramas and photo shoots. Production companies particularly like his 40ft by 20ft room at the top of the house which is more like a city loft. Bates is proud of his home

but claims to be unimpressed y stars: "I'm in the music Yusiness and know people like that anyway."

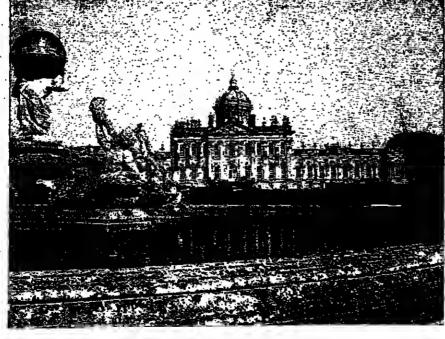
Mr and Mrs average may be more starstruck but would anyone want to film inside their home? Luke Jackson of Location Works says they would. "We look for anything from a smart kitchen for an Oxo ad to a bog standard one for Bold. It depends what we oeed. We're looking for a flat with a rubhish chute coming out of it but haven't found one yet."

Margaret at the Location Company echoes the ootioo that an ordinary property can be as sought-after as a stately home but admits: "We do like large, aspirational properties with clean lines, woodeo floors and preferably within the M25, but it's oot just yuppie flats, we oeed boring little semis with privet hedges as well."

She warns that whatever type of home you have, space is vital. Film crews, photographic equipment and possibly caterers oeed room to manocuvre. All agencies are loath to accept anywhere that appears cluttered.

But using your house as a location may out win you neighbour of the year award. Jackson cautions: "We tell clieots to speak to their neighbours before filming starts. Otherwise people wake up at 7am to a street full of trucks, lights and a generator going and think,

'What the bloody hell's that?" Miles Ridley, who lives opposite the Greenwich house where the Mrs Mertoo gas board ad was filmed recently, was incensed to find lights and a crew outside his window as he tried to eat lunch. "No, I wasn't



deeply bocoured by the whole experience. In fact I was tempted to go out and have, as Mrs Merton would say, a heat-

Because of past problems, the London Borough of Greenwich employs a film locations officer who liaises between anyone wanting to film and residents. Harvey Edgington took up his post after filming of The Krays caused inhabitants of a tiny street in a conservation area immense difficulties

ed debate."

with night shooting and severe parking congestion.

"Some people thought it was the best thing ever, others weren't too impressed at finding their front doors painted a different colour when they got home. Film crews oow speak directly to me if they want the street lights off or hins collected that day."

In Greenwich, residents approach the borough direct. Officers take photos of your home for a database which film com- tween 10 and 15 per cent com-

mission if your home is used.

eeighbours but for those whose

homes are used the financial re-

wards can be great if you don't

mind disruption. Major film

companies can pay up to £2,000

a day to film inside your home.

it's up to you what to accept.

For stills photography the fees

are less but so is the disruption.

Bates finds this a more attrac-

tive option: "I was offered

£5,000 for a crew to film for five

Agencies give guidelines but

Sadly there are no perks for

Howard. setting for 'Brideshead Revisited<sup>a</sup> with Antony Andrews and Jeremy irons – but there is also a market for more humble film locations

days but it meant 70 people

trailing through my house daily.

I know what film crews are like

and the damage to walls and

carpets it would mean so I

damage is common. Lights get

dropped oo carpets and furni-

that the company filming in

your home has adequate pub-

lic liability insurance. If things

go horribly wrong they must be

All ageocies admit that

Agencies should make sure

said 'No way'."

ture is dented.

Castle

you could find yourself very popular. But if the only remarkable feature of your home is a rubbish chute you may be luckier than you think.

Location Works 0171-494 0888: The Location Company 0171-637 7766; Lavish Locations 0181-742 2992; Location Wise 0171-603 5454; LB Greenwich Film Locations 0181-312 5662

able to compeosate home-

don't go wrong and oearly all

are keen to loan their homes

again. If you live in a large "as-

pirational" loft space in London

For most people things

#### So you wanna be in movies?

Speak to an agency first to see what they are looking

Send in a variety of photos making sure to emphasise space and avoiding clutter.

Decide if you are prepared to risk a film crew or prefer stills shoots only.

Check that any company using your home is adequately insured.

Warn your oeighboors about any filming

### 10/PROPERTY

THE KITCHEN SINK

### What the butler never saw

Cappuccino is to the kitchen a sink made from granite. The owner of a muddy beige sink, you are seriously out of date.

It could even affect your chances of getting the best the sink as bard as rock. price wheo selling your property. Almost every survey by eslenders puts a designer-name kitchen at the top of a huyer's price and garage. It's one of the grey and catmeal-and-white. few improvements that pays for itself when you come to sell (unlike double glazing, or redecorating in neutral shades).

According to the latest issue of Which? a new kitchen is one of the few house improvements to add value to a property. It is, after all, off-putting to view a house where the sink looks as though it's used regularly for cleaning paint brushes.

It may sound silly to regard the humble kitchen sink as a fashioo statement. But it's no accident that estate ageots of developers fitting out highthrow in as many high-profile hrand names as possible in sales details. Buyers like to, matches stainless steel cupthink they're getting a classy. product - even better, an ex- at £195 for a small bowl and rise pensive fitting that they haven't paid for themselves.

Carron Phoenix in Falkirk, Scotland, is one of Europe's leaders of kitcheo sink dramatis personae. Ooe of their top of the range products sounds like a fitting Fred and Wilma Flintto their Stone Age oeighbours:

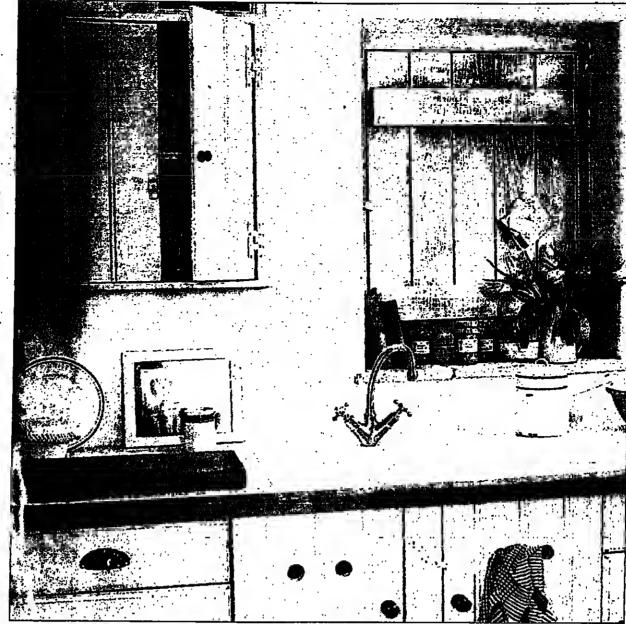
sink what avocado is to the bath- coloured quartz crystals are room suite. So if you are the ground and bonded with 20 per cent acrylic resin, then, during manufacture, the crystals are forced to the surface, making

Dropping pots in it, pouring boiling water over it and clattate ageocies and mortgage tering cutlery around in it will not cause stains or chips, the makers claim. It comes in a must-have list, after location, range of colours including slate In Savills' most recent sur-

vey of buyers, stainless steel was the most favoured kitchen sink finish. Polished Metal Products - which also produce the more traditional fireclay French farmhouse sinks - have just launched a new range of Soft Option stainless steel sinks, inspired by a Canadian design. They have an unusual, rolled edge which fits snugly under the surrounding surface and creates a waterproof seal.

Currently the hot favourite priced warehouse conversions, the professional cook look boards and cookers. Prices start to £415 for a two bowl combinatioo. Matching taps by Asquith, Philippe Starck and Diverso of Italy will add up to another £241, depending on finish and style.

Franke (another estate agent buzz-word) have exstone might have bragged about ploited the demand for purified Prices start at £347. The com-



Added value: research shows that a fine kitchen is one of four major factors affecting the saleability of a house after location, price and garage. Here, the Artisan Kitchen, by John Lewis of Hungerford

purificatioo system.

The Triflow comes with a range of taps, including porcelain and Corian, to match the work surface. They also come in the currently popular pewter, and a two-tone nickel and gold.

squeezed into oddly shaped cooversions, start at around

Bald UK make a range of integrated sink and worktops, which is handy if you want to replace the whole top of the unit without fiddling about cutting water by producing a three-way pany's corner sink designs, per- into an existing worktop. Prices

tap with an integrated water fect for kitchens that have been start at £58 a metre, plus VAT. But some people will always be unimpressed by high-tech sink think, and go for the traditional Belfast or hutler sink, The kitcheo maker John Lewis of Hungerford says that the real

practical, so he imports cast-iroo to suit the UK market. They

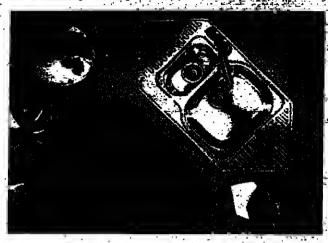
sinks, coated in white eoamel, also designed the New Yorker

at £245 plus VAT. house, enamelled fireclay sinks, Belfast sinks are too big and imhave developed French designs

lo three different sizes, starting Brass and Traditional Sinks, which make traditional farm-

from America. They still look right for the period and come

Stone Age chic: Carron Phoenix's 'granite' sinks' made from quartz crystals bonded with resin



Cornered: Franke, ever popular with estate agents, produce a neat design for a limited space "

works just as well in a British kitchen. The French Farmhouse at £371. All the taps are British

Having spent a small fortune on your sink, you may find it painful to leave it behind when you move. But the Herefordshire firm Berrington have made it possible to take everything and the kitchen sink. Their Classic English range is custom-built, free-staodiog kitcheo furniture and includes a cupboard built around a butler sink by Armitage Shanks.

- a double-bowl fireclay sink - The top and interiors are oat for the American market, but it the drawer pulls solid brass. A piece like this costs £1,089, including taps but not including starts at £218, the New Yorker delivery. As it is all freestanding and fully finished, youdon't need to have it fitted. Apart from any electrical and plumbing connections, the furnîture is loose, so you cao take it with you when you go.

> Carron Phoenix (01324 638 321): Polished Metal Products (01291 650455); Brass & Traditional Sinks (01291 650738); Bald UK (01933 225985); Franke (0161-436 6280); Berrington Furniture (01885

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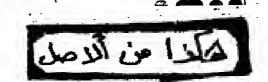


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### How the hard facts undermine the case for 'cut-price' loans

Nothing could be simpler that choosing a mortgage. You simply pick the lender offering the best interest rates on the market, right? Wrong: as Nic Cicutti explains, taking out a loan involves more than opting for the lowest headline rate.

The past few years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of different mortages available to borrowers. Barely a week passes without at least 100 new loans hitting the market, replacing offers – some available for only a few days - considered defunct by lenders.

Choosing between them has become a lottery, a problem compounded by the proliferaon of deals where the small print becomes more important than the key advantages of what is on offer,

It is no surprise that many borrowers, both first-time huyers and - perhaps surprisingly ... those secking to re-mortgage are tempted by headline rates.

These are the "teaser" advertisements that promise an ultra-low annual percentage rate tinue with a policy that impos-(APR) to borrowers. Yet any- es five-year redemption charges one who wanders blindly into the maze could find themselves paying heavily for that special deal. Before deciding on the loan, there are several points to

The first is that APRs, the supposedly cast-iron mechanism for telling whether one rate in cash). What tends to emerge from another, may be no such is that you get charged a thing. For example, many slightly higher rate for that lenders calculate their APRs on

the assumption that the borrower will not necessarily revert director at Barclays Mortgages, to a standard variable rate at the end of the fixed or discounted period.

The result has been mounting confusion as lenders apply whatever figure they like in respect of what they assume borrowers will pay in the long term. It pays therefore, for borrowers to ask whether the APR relates only to the headline period or the full duration of the

There are other issues to look at, one of them being the booking fee. Many lenders will charge £295 to arrange the mortgage. But some will levy £395, while a handful have been known to levy as much at £695. At that price, the rate on offer would have to be amazing for it to be worthwhile.

Alan Mudd, sales manager John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage brokers, warns of another potential sting in the tail: "Look at the headline rate, coupled with the tie-in period when redemption penalties apply. If you are looking to pay off part of your mortgage early, heavy penalties if you redeem in the first five years can be a sting in the tail you don't need."

Yet many lenders still con-- such as six months-worth of interest -- even for a two-year fixed rate deal.

Mr Mudd adds: "Look very carefully at the rate that is heing charged for cashback morgages [where a percentage of the loan is given back to you

Jim Chadwick, marketing gives one example of the pressures involved in trying to offer a fair deal to borrowers on cashbacks: "There has been a conception that headline price equals 'best price', but with contractual lock-ins to the lender - sometimes for many years - the sting is in the tail.

"For a number of years we were caught in the trap. Simply, we were concerned that locking customers in to variable rates for long period of time could be extremely dangerous to them, particularly if rates were 10 increase. We therefore set a limit of two years on lock-in period. But as returns from mortgages are driven by lock-ins this meant we could not offer the same levels of cashbacks and effectively withdrew from the price

Interestingly, one recent study shows that over a five-year period between April 1992 and April 1997, a £60,000 mortgage would have cost £22,159 in interest payments with Barclays Mortgages, whereas the supposedly more competitive Nationwide, Britannia and Bradford & Bingley charged between £21,236 and £24,011 over the same period.

As the facts become clearer, customers have tended to look deeper for value, many now heing prepared to use to Barclays for their loans.

Alan Mudd, at John Charcol, adds: "Borrowers should also look at the issue of compulsory insurances. Everyone needs insurance, but what I recommend is that people should shop around first and get the best quote for the best home and contents policy.



The nightmare you pay to avoid; many offers are linked to compulsory insurance - and the excessive price can make the whole deal a bad one

it to the cost of compulsory insurance on that attractive mortgage rate. Quite often you will find that what a lender will charge for complustry insurance equates to 0.25 per cent on the mortgage rate." On a £60,000 interest-only loan, that means an extra £12 a month for 25

John Charcol recommends that customers also check in interest payments on a typiwhether mortgage indemnity guarantees (MIGs), the insur-

"Then, they should compare ance levied from borrowers to check the lender's track record: meet sums owed in the event of default, are applied and what they are, Some lenders charge up to £1,000 more than others for the same-sized loan.

As suggested last week, it also pays to find out when capital repayments are deducted from the outstanding mortgage balance; monthly or daily. The monthly option can save £4,500 cal £60,000 loan over 25 years. "If they lag behind everyone in lowering rates and race to raise them, borrowers will end up paying more, no matter what the

Nic Cicuti, personal finance editor, has written a 27-page Guide to Mortgages, available free to readers of The Independent. The guide, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages, is available by calling 0800 585691. Or fill in the Finally, Mr Mudd advises, coupon on page 3.



#### The Houses can sell a home

PENNY JACKSON

quiet family house in the same neck of the woods off Myatt's Fields, a lovely but little-known park, was and queue all night. amazed at the success of St Gabriel's Manors advertising

campaign.
She looked enviously as City workers snapped up verted Victorian college which sold heavily on being two miles from Westminster. In the meantime she was constantly having to explain to sceptical huyers that no they didn't have problems that buyers prefer to take the 0181-508 8881 word of a developer.

The only thing that surprises Simon Coan of though with the restoration Winkworth, who knows the area well, and used to take his children to Myatt's Fields in preference to Battersea Park, is the prices people are prepared to pay in some south London develop-

And as soon as the words loft or split level are mentioned, buyers seem to lose all reason. "They come to us saying they have a lovely studio flat and want £130,000 for it, and I have to tell them, not in a million years, I always ask why they paid so the gadgets, like a glassmuch for it. As for the Far domed swimming pool East buyers, they see a line saying 10 minutes by taxi to the West End and then pay through the nose."

At least the Far East investors who have just bought off-plan in Galliard Homes' Butlers Wharf development can pinpoint exactly where they are. Right on the waterside between the Design Museum and Pont de la Tour in what is now a car park. Spice Quay, a 92-apart-

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When it comes to selling in ment block, according to the Camberwell/ Brixton the architectural drawings. area, a brochure with a pic- will not be apeing its wareture of the Houses of Par- house neighbour, opting inliament works a dream. A stead for glass balconies house owner having enor- among other features. There mous difficulty in selling her is not much chance that buyers will do a White House (Galliards' enormously successful South Bank venture)

This Galliard and Frogmore development has sold so well in the Far East that only 23 apartments remain unsold. However, they expect the apartments in a con- nearly all of those to go to owner-occupiers since the rental yield on apartments that start in price at £400,000 is not high. A 1,900 sq ft duplex apartment over two floors is heing sold for £850,000. Shops and with Brixton, and Okay there restaurants are being huilt were a few rough spots but into the ground- floor all in all it was a very good scheme, and a new multiarea. Which is true, but it's storey car park is going up galling for honest folk to find behind Butlers Wharf. Sales:

> What can compare of the last of Regent's Park terraces? After four years of meticulous work, Cambridge Gate now houses a splendid 40-room mansion and 23 apartments.

No.1, the mansion, is a cool £15m and comes with its own bespoke Rolls-Royce Silver Spur as well as eight bedroom suites, six reception room, three kitchens, a library, study and orangery.

At 16,500 sq ft it is one of London's largest residences and is not short of useful litwhich transforms into a ballroom at the press of a button.

Eleven of the apartments have been released in the first phase, the largest of which is more than 6,000 square feet.

Six apartments have already been sold to a mix of UK, American and Middle Eastern buyers.

Prices range from £1.9m to £3m. Agents are De Groot Collis: 0171-235 8090.

### ... but some of the mortgages on offer look very tempting

switch, all those borrowers who were locked in to existing nders while awaiting windfalls ire free to seek better deals. Abbey National's Autumn

mortgage collection includes tents insurance are required, or uary 2001 are available with the loans up to 95 per cent get lower

Now that the first round of con-fixed rates of 6.49 per cent for the rate goes up by 0.2 per cent. same trimmings and no lock-in rates and four years' free cover. three years, are available withversions from building society five years for borrowers who A three-year fixed rate of period to follow on this one. to banks has come to an end want less than 75 per cent loans 6.45 per cent is available, and orthern Rock making the to value, and 6.99 per cent for a 10-year rate of 7.59 per cent fering 100 per cent loans at 7.79 up to 95 per cent loans to valis available on loans up to 95 per ue. Bonuses of up to £325 are cent of valuation, both with suravailable to cover survey fees vey bonus, booking fee and in-years and 8.39 per cent fixed for but a booking fee of £250 and surance requirement attached. 10. Free unemployment cover Abbey's own buildings and con- Fixed-rate loans until end-Jan- is available for a year, while Capped mortgages, guaranteed

London Property

Royal Bank of Scotland is ofper cent fixed for three years, 7.89 per cent fixed for five

Nationwide is offering an in- out redemption penalties. novative reducing fixed rate mortgage which starts at 8.29 per cent in year one, falling to 7.49 per cent, 6.99 per cent and then 5.99 per cent in year four, an average of 7.19 per cent. not to exceed 8.99 per cent for

FirstMortgage has launched three-year discounted variable-rate mortgage starting at 5.95 per cent 10 complement its three-year 6.25 per cent fixed

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### THE LONDON MOTOR SHOW

### Not Frankfurt, but well worth a spin

We are on the verge of a new age in motoring, and the forthcoming. London Motor Show will give punters a taste of what's in store. But in his preview of the show, Gavin Green suggests London may be a pale imitation of Frankfurt's more exciting display of new cars

That it is a mere taste, rather than a fullhlown entrée, is a shame, and a reflection of London's lowly international status in the motor show food chain. Our fashion shows may now be world class; our motor shows aren't there yet.

Frankfurt last month was a breathtaking preview of frugal and imaginatively styled small cars, machines that are green and fun. Congested Britain needs such cars at least as badly as Germany. Yet only a sprinkling of the Frankfurt Show stars are crossing the Channel.

There is, for instance, no Smart Car, the ingenious little two-seater "city coupé" made jointly by Mercedes-Benz and Swatch, the watch people, which goes on sale in mainland Europe next spring. UK sales will probably start in 2000.

Nor is there the new Audi AL2, precursor to a new baby Audi, also slated for the year 2000. With its lightweight aluminium body and direct-injection petrol engine it promises marvellous economy (well over 60mpg), as well as smile-a-mile driving. Instead Audi chooses to show a more powerful version of the handsome A4. This new S4 is hugely desirable. Yet it is an irrelevant cul-de-sac in the grand scheme of things. The AL2 is the future.

We will not see the new Mini, unveiled to a select group at Frankfurt, before quickly disappearing again. That such a crucial new British car was shown in Frankfurt, but not in London, is a rude reminder of where the real power is wielded at BMW-owned Rover these days.

At least we'll see the new Mercedes Aclass, 1997's most impactful car, and probahly the greatest leap in small car design since the original Mini. There are so many clever ideas crammed into the Aclass's Mini Metro length, not least a passenger compartment as hig as a Ford Mondeo's. Independent tests have suggested that the A-class really is as safe as a bigger Mercedes saloon, an extraordinary achievement. UK sales start in June, and prices begin at about £13,500.

The brand new Golf is another Earls Court must-see. It is nothing like as radical as the A-class and, in the photos, looks like a timid makeover of the old model. Yet it is such a marvellously complete small batch, better made and classier than the outgoing model, more entertaining to drive, yet reassuringly familiar to former



Golfers. Britisb sales start next spring but prices have already been announced: they start from £11,970 - excellent value. The GTi will cost £15,515.

The new Vauxhall Astra also looks impressive, if conservative. As with the Golf, much is being made about its safety offerings (in Germany, even side airbags are standard). Vauxhall is also playing up its driver appeal, an aspect of the current Astra which is distinctly underwhelming. Lotus has been drafted in to give the new model some suspension finesse.

Also in the small hatcbback class, Citroën unveils its new challenger, the Xsara. If you ignore the anonymous looks and the pedigree of the badge, the Xsara is actually a likeable thing. It's roomy, rides with commendable suppleness and has the odd innovative flourish to keep the Citroën name burning, aibeit dimiy. It replat ZX, and goes on sale next month.

lander, the Solihull maker's first-ever small "lifestyle" 4x4. This class has hred some naff cars in the past, yet the Freelander promises to be rather different. It looks imposing (4x4s invariably do) without being too butch, and early impressions suggest a vehicle that's capable on both mud and motorways. The three-door rag roof model also promises to serve up some fun. Sales start in November. There's a choice of four-cylinder petrol or four-cylinder probably the greatest diesel models, neither of which should be too thirsty - unlike all other Land Rovers.

Just as important in the 4x4 market is the new Mercedes M-class, which also makes its British début. This one targets the bigger Discovery sector, and is bound to give the ageing Disco and the equally artbritic Sbogun a pummelling in the showroom. It's Mercedes' first-ever "luxury lifestyle" offroader and is a sign of how this

like a good reason to avoid it. Don't: the car is important, not least because it shows how manufacturers arecontinuing to diversify their model ranges.

Mind you, another new Mercedes - the V-class people carrier – also provides a clear illustration of the dangers of

Mercedes' A-class is leap in small car design since the original Mini

diversification. This truck-like van is more a luxury minibus tban a car-like MPV.

The prettiest model at Earls Court is probably the new Alfa 156, the Italian maker's most serious attempt yet to give the market continues to boom. The M-class, BMW 3-series and the Audi A4 a hard time 9.30am-7pm (9pm on 21,22,230ctober, Apart from the A-class, the star of the on the Benz stand, is part of a Jurassic in the small sports saloon market. It is quite 6pm on 36October). Entry £10 for adults and show is probably the new Land Rover Free- Park: The Lost World display, which sounds gorgeous. V6 and tuneful four-cylinder en- £6 for children under 15 and OAPs.

gines are on offer, and build quality looks to be very close to German levels. Sales start next spring. Of technical interest is its diesel engine.

Clockwise from left: the impactful A-

class Mercedes, a classy new Golf, the

impressive looking Freelander, Land

Rover's first ever 'lifestyle' small 4x4,

R447 MCY

and the new Astra.

It's the world's first production unit using new-fangled "common-rail" technology which, in a nutshell, means it's cleaner, faster and more frugal than diesel rivals. Other makers will follow this Fiat initiative, set to give a new lease of life to a type of engine which many thought (and hoped) was on its way out.

A final pick: make sure you see the new Porsche 911, which serves up the best driving experience you'll probably ever get. Sadly, few will ever get the chance. Just look at it, and dream. After all, for most of us, that's what motor shows are all about.

The London Motor Show, held at Earls Court, runs from 35-20October, from

### After a bargain, Guy?

is it really essential to have a brand-new car? Depreciation and VAT instantly cut the value of your motor. James Ruppert advises on the alternatives

Let's take the cynical view: wouldn't a used car do the same job as a gleaming new one, only more cost effect. tively? Here is The Independent's slightly used guide to alternatives, for Motor Show newcomers.

City Cars. Small on the outside, big on the inside, hip all over. The truly innovative Mercedes A Class will be the star of the show. But you won't be able to buy one for the best part of a year. Competitive pricing (£12,000) will see to that as it takes on VW Golf-swedcars. If all you really want is to shuffle around town, the Mini has never been bettered. Pay the most you can afford, avoid rusty ones and the rusning cost will be minimal. But because most city cars end up being used as front line vehicles, you might as well? upscale to the Fiat Punto. Prices startat £4,000 for a 1994 example.

The 4 x 4 market may be dying. populated by all-weather dinosaurs, bot Land Rover's new Freelander threatens to put the fun back. Not much compares with it, although the trendy Toyota RAV 4 has been around for a couple of years - still quite costly at £8,000 to £9,000. The older, rather: naff Suzuki Vitara might do, with 1990 models hovering around £4,000.

Executive cars: a very competitive sector which experiences the higgest depreciation dive. After a few years and a few thousand miles, £30K cars. struggle to make £5,000 which is great news for the canny-used-car buyer. Saab have high hopes for their strangely named 9-5, but the 9000 CD saloon it replaces has just as much standard kit and can be picked up for £5,000 to £6,000 as a 1992 model.

As luxury cars Jaguars also tumble quickly out of favour. At the show will be the company's new V8 engined saloons. Brand oew they are expensive, £50,000 for the XJR. If you like the gorgeous shape the old six cylinder engines are just as smooth and a 1995 3.2 litre will cost just £24,000.

Hatchbacks: the all-new Golf makes it's debut at Earls Court. Bigger and arguably better than previous Golfs, it is more refined and more expensive. But for basic hatchback duties the old one will still do the job, although they are not cheap: a 1.8 litre trom 1992 still costs around £6.000.

In the saloon and batchback sector there may not be much new, although all the usual Vauxhall Vectra, Peugeot 406 and Ford Mondeo suspects will be out in force to tempt the company car buyer. There are more of these cars built than there are customers. Find a low mileage, six month old example at a huge saving. A Ford Mondeo 2.0i GLX hatchback which cost £14,465 in 1996, ought to be no more than £9,000 after £10,000 miles. Ditto a Vauxhall Vectra 2.0 GLS, a mere £12,000 for a 1997 car with 5,000 miles under it's wheels.

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Sports: The Porsche 911 is up for replacement. The new 911 looks similar enough to the old car but the new engine is now water, rather than air: cooled. There will be an interminable waiting list even at an approximate £65,000 asking price.

The four wheel drive Carrera 4 starts in the early £20K region for a 1989 example. One which is a little older might just slip under the £20k wire. and hest of all, you will virtually get your money back after a year of fun. What new car can promise you that?

### A-plus for this Alfa, as a classic comes back to life

There are more significant cars at the show, but for Gavin Green, who learnt to drive on a rusty Seventies Alfasud, the new Alfa 156 is the one that brings the biggest smile.

Alfa has been in a bad way for the past few decades. Yet despite the rust, breakdowns, wacky designs, perplexing cahins and general pointlessness of many recent models, there is still a magic about the marque. It is partly the name, so tonguerollingly romantic, and partly its past. There have been many great old Alfas. Tragically, there have been very few great new ones.

The new 156 promises much more. It looks so lovely, for starters. Not extravagant, not excessive, not particularly eyecatching; rather, like all good design, it has a handsome basic form and caps it with pleasing and imaginative trimmings. The apparent deletion of rear-door handles (they are subtly hidden in a small panel in the corner of the rear window) gives this sporty saloon the look of a coupé, and makes for especially clean flanks. The frontdoor handles are old-fashioned alloy affairs,

Registration Numbers

redolent of great Alfas of the past yet substantial and pleasing to touch and operate. It also drives beautifully, composed yet brisk, fluent yet with a him of fury.

The 156 aims to shake up the German makers' dominance of the small sporty saloon market, currently owned by the Audi A4 and BMW 3-series. It is at least as good as these cars, yet more distinctive.

Its excellence should come as no surprise. After all, Alfa really invented the sector, in the Fifties and Sixties, with delicious-looking and driving cars such as Giulias and Giuliettas. They weren't that reliable and they rusted; but few who owned one (and I did) failed to love it. They had such personality and character: such melodious motors, such wholly involving mechanicals (you could almost physically feel the gears meshing). And they were so engaging, on the road, that it was almost as if the four wheels were strapped to your knees and elbows. Your felt very close to

State-owned Alfa, like state-owned BL, lost its way dreadfully in the Seventies. Factories were built to provide jobs rather than to make good new cars. Thus the new Pomigliano factory, near Naples, provided work for unemployed locals from Italy's

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deprived south. It also served up the worst-made European car of the Seventies,

My mother owned one and I learnt to drive on it. The interior trim peeled off like the skin of a rotting piece of fruit. And, talking of rot, no car rusted faster. You could almost see, and hear, the decay spreading. so quick was the self-destruction. Our lovely red Alfasud soon turned into a less fetching shade of oxidised orange, bordered hy shades of crumbling brown and soon after, little peck-a-boo holes. Our car quickly became a colander.

Yet it was marvellous to drive! It was engineered in Milan, where Alfas have always come from, and had the most fantastic engine, handling and brakes of its era. But great design is useless if it is hadly made. The Alfasud was potentially the greatest car of the Seventies. Instead, it was

the most tragic. The Eighties got off to an equally unpromising start. Remember the Alfa Romco Arna? It was probably the single most misguided machine of the decade. A joint venture with Nissan, desperate to secure a European manufacturing base in the days before Sunderland, the Arna was a crummy little Nissan Cherry made at the really beautiful 1969 Fiat 124

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The Alpha 156: like all good design, it has a handsome basic form capped with imaginative trimmings

blighted Sud factory. It was the worst possible combination. The world was crying out for an Alfa produced to Japanese standards. Instead. ii got a character-free Nissan huilt in Italy. Nobody bought it.

Yet, unlike BL's sporty saloon hrand, Triumph, Alfa has survived. More important, under the protection of a cash-rich and innovarive parent, Fiat, it is prospering again. Even the dreaded Pomigliano factory now churns out tightly assembled. quality cars.

The 156 is a Pomigliano product, and while it may not be quite as bullet proof as an Audi A4, it is jolly close. So do go and ogle the 156 at the Eart's Court show. You will nnt only see a lovely car, you will also be witnessing the rejuvenation of a muchloved marque.

### MY WORST CAR/JONATHAN COLEMAN

### The red crock that lured the girls

Sport, finished in red. I paid A\$2,000 (£900) for it and within a year had sunk another \$5,000 into the thing. It cost me money straight-

away because the Fiat had a manual transmission and I had learnt to drive in an automatic. At that time, though, all you had to do was pay for another five lessons and you could switch to a stick shift. So when I started to drive the little Fiat full-time, the fun really started.

The clutch went within days. The heater was a strange device, which either did not work or jammed on permanently so that after a few minutes' driving you would have 10 open all the windows. Some crucial mechanical parts were less than perfect, which included vague



Coleman: when the Fiat broke down, I slept in it'

steering and even more vague brakes. Most of the time I had to pull up the hand-brake to bring the Fiat to a halt. Never mind hrake fade, there was paint fade too as the red body got duller by the day. I vividly

remember gaskets leaking, oil being everywhere and having to replace them constantly. It came to a head when I was

driving through Sydney one night in torrential rain and the Fiat just stopped dead. This was in the days before mobile phones. The choice was either to trudge through water looking for a phone box, or staying with the car. That was a simple choice: I slept in the Fiat. Otherwise, it was a very

groovy car. Parked outside my house it looked great and made a lovely sporty noise from the exhaust, a very distinctive gargle that all the best Italian cars

Basically, the Fiat did what is was intended to do and that was attract girls. Maybe that is why I originally bought it from a girl and later sold it to an-

other. She came and cheeffully collected it from Canberra, but that wasn't the last I heard from her. A few days later she was on the phone complaining that the clutch had gone. Now I'd just had a reconditioned one fitted and the mechanics told me there was six months life left in it. Maybe they meant to say six weeks.

I only hope that she's not reading this; I can imagine the 124 still being parked outside her house on bricks and her being bitter and twisted about the fact that I lumbered her with the old dear.

Jonathan Coleman presents 'Mixing It' on Channel 5, at 6.30pm on Sundays. He co-presented Russ'n'Jono's Breakfast Experience' on Virgin Radio. He was talking to James Ruppert.

